

THE Present CONDITION OF THE *Muscovite* EMPIRE, Till the YEAR 1699.

IN TWO

LETTERS:

The First from a Gentleman, who was Conversant WITH THE *Muscovite* Ambassadour in *Holland*:

The Second from a Person of Quality at

VIENNA,

Concerning the late

Muscovite EMBASSY,

His present *Czarish Majesty*;

THE

RUSSIAN EMPIRE;

AND

GREAT-TARTARY.

WITH THE

LIFE

Of the Present

Emperour of *CHINA*.

By Father *J. BOUVET*, Missionary.

By the Author of the *Antient and Present State of* Muscovy.

LONDON, Printed for *F. Coggan*, in the *Inner-Temple-Lane*. MDCXCIX.



THE

PREFACE.

THE Two following *Letters*, which I have here presented to the Reader, being lately come to my hands, and containing a short but most exact and authentick Account of the present Condition of the *Muscovite* Empire, I thought I could scarce do a more acceptable piece of Service to the Publick at this Juncture, than to communicate them to the Curious. The first Letter was written by a Gentleman, who being at *Amsteldam* at the time of that Solemn *Muscovite* Embassy; and whilst the *Czar* was there present, had the Honour to be intimately

acquainted with ſome of the *Muſcovites* of the firſt Rank there, which gave him the opportunity to be inform'd concerning theſe Matters, which hitherto either are not at all, or at leaſt, but very confuſedly come to our Knowledge. Thoſe, who will ſeriouſly reflect upon what this Gentleman has been pleaſed to tell us concerning the two Sieges of *Aſoph*, its true Situation, Advantage and Strength; concerning the preſent State of the *Muſcovite* Navy, and their Maritim Affairs; with ſeveral other moſt Curious Obſervations, relateing to his *Czariſh Majeſty*'s Perſon, eſpecially ſince his departure out of *England*, will, I ſuppoſe, agree with me in Opinion, that this Account is the moſt exact, and perhaps alſo the moſt authentick we have had of this kind for many Years before. The ſecond being an Abſtract of ſeveral Letters written by a Perſon of Quality, then Reſiding at the Imperial Court at *Vienna*, gives us

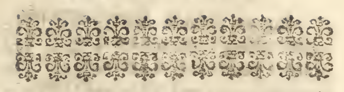
a faithful Account both of his own Sentiments and of the whole Imperial Court concerning the present State of Affairs in *Muscovy*; with very Curious Observations upon several remarkable Subjects, relating to the last Peace with the *Turks*; and the Way by Land through the *Great-Tartary* into *China*.

Any one that will be at the pains to compare the Maps the Geographers have been pleased to put upon the World formerly, of the North Eastern Parts of *Asia*, with this Account, will soon be convinced of their Ignorance, when they have represented this Part of the World, which is Stock'd with vast Numbers of Inhabitants, and Water'd by so many great and fair Rivers, as inhabitable Forrests and Desarts. In the whole, these two Letters may well be consider'd as a Supplement of the *Antient and Present State of* Muscovy, published at the time of His Czarish Majesty's being in *England*; many things

of

of Moment which have happened ſince, being inſerted here, and related upon the Credit of thoſe Perſons, who had the opportunity of taking the beſt Information that can be expected of this kind. I will not pretend to enlarge much upon the Hiſtorical Portraicture, given us by Father *Bouvet*, of the preſent Emperour of *China*, ſuppoſing that his being an Eye-witneſs of what he relates, and his offering it to the moſt Chriſtian King, will be a ſufficient Plea, both for his Authority and Veracity, to the unbyaſs'd Reader.

The



ADVERTISEMENT

TO THE

READER.

WHen I consider the Genius of the Age we live in, which is so much inclined to call in question every thing that comes from far Remote Places, I have all the Reason in the World, to fear that these Memoirs will undergo the same Fate, and will not meet with that favourable interpretation, the faithfulness and exactness wherewith they are written, might justly Challenge from unqualified Persons.

But

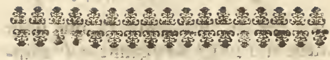
But as I have not inserted the least thing; of which I have not either been an Eye-witness my self, or else have received it my self from unquestionable hands, so I am apt to flatter my self, that the Reader will look upon this Relation with another Eye, than is commonly done upon ordinary accounts; I hope no body will think me so Impudent, as to dare to Present to the most quick-sighted and greatest Monarch of the World, any thing which is not in all its circumstances, agreeable to Truth; which must needs bring upon me the just Indignation of His Majesty, and at the same time, be a means to forfeit the Good Opinion of the Greatest Emperour of the *Orient.*

But whatever the Spirit of Contradiction may be able to invent, to render these Memoirs suspected to the World. I don't question, but that Truth which is represented here without Contradiction, in its Genu-

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ine Shape, will protect me both here and in *China* against all gainsayers; the only thing which I have to relent at, being, that I have not been able to represent in their full Lustre all such Matters, as must needs be infinitely pleasing to all, who are truly Zealous for the propagation of the Faith.

BOVVET.



TO THE

Most Christian King.

May it please Your Majesty.

THE Portraicture which I am taking the Liberty to present at this time to Your Majesty, is certainly the One of the rarest and most curious that has been brought from the East. All the Memoirs both of time past, and even of this Country, can furnish us but with very few Subjects, which, If I dare presume to say so, are more worth Your Attention and Curiosity; I need not say any thing more than, that it is the Portraicture of a Monarch, who having the good Fortune to Resemble Your Majesty in most Respects, enjoys the same Advantages in reference to his great Station, among the Pagan Princes, which Your Majesty is possess'd of in the Christian World.

The

The Jeſuits, which by Your Majeſty have been Employed as Miſſionaries into China *ſome years ago, were not a little ſurpriſed to meet at the utmoſt corner of the Earth with what they had never ſeen before but in* France, *that is to ſay; a Prince, who, like Your ſelf, has improved his ſublime Genius by that Greatneſs of Soul, which alone renders him worthy of the greateſt Empire of the Univerſe; who has the ſame uncontrouled Power over his Paſſions, as over his Subjects, equally Adored by his People and Eſteemed by his Neihgbours; who, as his Glorious Enterprizes have been Crowned with Succeſs, ſo ſtands more indebted for it to his own Valour and Conduct, than Fortune; In ſhort, a Prince in whom are center'd moſt of theſe great Qualifications requiſite to make an accompliſh'd* Hero, *and who would without queſtion be accounted the moſt Glorious Monarch upon Earth, if his Reign had not been coincident with that of Your Majeſty.*

It must be confess'd that hitherto he is so unhappy as to be a Pagan, which makes him uncapable of these most Eminent Prerogatives, without which, all the other Royal Qualities want the most solid Foundation; yet it may be truly said of him, that he has made a considerable step towards it by the High Esteem he has of our Religion, by the Satisfaction he takes in the Conversion of his Subjects to the Christian Faith, which gives us no small hopes, that in time, by the Grace fo God, be entirely united to the Church.

For, considering what favourable Inclinations God has been pleased to inspire into his Heart for the Christian Religion, by the means of our Arts and Sciences, we are not beyond hopes, that one day he may prove the Deststruction of the Pagan Idolatry in China; *endeavouring in this, as in many other things, to tread in the footsteps of Your Majesty, who have made it Your Chiefest Glory, to root out Heresie in your Dominions, and*

to

to propagate the true Religion thro-out all Parts of the World.

Will it not be the greateſt Happineſs and Glory of Your Majeſty's Reign, that the ſame Arts and Sciences, which have been brought to the higheſt pitch of Protection, by your Encouragement and protection, ſhould be the happy Inſtruments of theſe favourable Inclinations, the preſent Emperour of China *ſhews for our Religion; and if the* Chineſes *ſhould be convinced in time of the Great advantage the Truth of the Goſpel has over their vain Philoſophy, to ſerve as a Means both for the Soveraign and his Subjects, to ſubmit themſelves, notwithſtanding all their Self-conceit, (in which they ſurpaſs moſt Nations) to the forcible truth of the Chriſtian Religion.*

Theſe are the hopes which may be conceiv'd from true Hiſtorical Portraicture of this Prince; the only thing I fear, is, that the Pencil of the Painter has done conſiderable wrong to the Original. But if all the

Linea-

Lineaments are not ſo Nice and Exact as they ſhould be, I am ſure they are true; and all the Favours this Monarch has been pleaſed to heap upon us, have not been Powerful enough to induce me, to deviate in the leaſt from the Reſpect due to Your Majeſty: and Truth it ſelf, in ſo Nice a Point, in which the Intereſt of the Goſpel, which was never ſeparated from Yours, is ſo narrowly concerned.

THE

The Preſent

CONDITION

OF THE

Muſcovite EMPIRE,

TILL THE

YEAR 1699,

In a LETTER *from a Gentleman, who was Converſant with the late* Muſcovite *Ambaſſadours in* Holland.

SIR,

IN your laſt you deſired me to acquaint you with what I had been able to learn concerning the preſent State of *Muſcovy*, during the Stay of that moſt ſolemn Embaſſy of His *Czariſh* Majeſty in this City. I am extreamly well pleaſed, you have put me in the way of ſatisfying in ſome

measure your Curiosity, having by the frequent Conversation with the said Ambassadours, had the opportunity to inform my self of several Matters of great Consequence, not commonly known in these Parts. I cannot but be amaz'd at the strange Notions the greatest Part have form'd to themselves of the present Condition of the *Muscovites*, being prepossess'd with an Opinion, that this Monarchy is of so little Consequence in respect of the other *European* Kingdoms, as scarce to be worth taking notice of.

But whoever will take the trouble to make a true insight into the present Posture of their Affairs, will be forced to confess, that there are few Kingdoms in *Europe*, which at this time may be look'd upon as a more proper Object of our Curiosity.

It is not to be denied, but that before the Year 1645, when Czar *Alexis Michaelovitz* (his present *Czarish* Majesty's Father) came to the Crown, the *Muscovites* were much more barbarous, that they cultivated but a very slender Correspondence, and had but little Commerce with foreign Nations; and that being ill vers'd in all manner of Sciences, they were consequently very ignorant of the Military Art and Discipline, at least as it is practised now a-days in *Europe*; which was the true Reason of their ill Success in so many Encounters, and that, tho' naturally fierce and hardy, they were frequently worsted by their Enemies, tho' much inferior in Number.

The

The Czar *Alexis Michaelovitz*, a Prince of a vast Understanding, and a Great Politician, having immediately after his Accession to the Throne, investigated the true Cause of the Disadvantage, the *Muscovites* lay under at that time, in respect of other foreign Nations, applied all his Thoughts to remove this Obstacle. The best Expedient he could pitch upon, was, to draw into his Service as many foreign Officers as possibly he could, to instruct his Subjects in the Modern Art of War; And the better to compass his Design, he made use of all the Politicks that could have been invented by the most refined Politician. For being sensible, that it would be no easie Task to engage a considerable Number of well qualified foreign Officers into his Service, he insensibly brought them over to his Party, by the Promises of great Pay, of entire Liberty of Conscience, of what Religion soever; and by taking them into his Service but for a little time: all which was very punctually observed on his side. Thus he put his projected Design in execution, with so extraordinary Success, that according to the Account given by the Baron of *Meyerbergh*, who was in the Year 1662, sent by his present Imperial Majesty *Leopald*, as his Ambassadour into *Muscovy*, there were among the foreign Officers in the Czar *Alexis Michaelovitz*'s Service, two Generals, two Marshals de Camp, above a hundred Collonels, a great Nnmber of Majors; Captains, Lieutenants and Ensigns, in

prodigious Numbers, who were all paid very punctually. This Account coming from a Person, who otherwise seldom speaks well of the *Muscovites* and their Affairs, deserves to be particularly taken notice of in this place.

These abovementioned Officers, having made their Levies in divers parts of the Country, subject to the Obedience of the Czars of *Muscovy*, and brought them under a regular Martial Disciplines, did afterwards in several Encounters with the *Poles* and *Swedes*, give sufficient Proofs, that the *Muscovites* don't want Bravery, when they are led on by good and experienc'd Officers. But, besides these new Levies, the Czar had always on foot a certain standing Number of old Troops, not unlike to the *Roman* Legions; those the *Muscovites* call *Strelitzes*, consisting of forty Thousand Men, under the Command of the Chiefest of the Nobility of the Empire.

It is further to be observed, that the introducing of a more regular Discipline among the *Muscovite* Forces, was not the only Reason which induc'd the Czar *Alexis Michaelovitz*, to entertain so vast a Number of foreign Officers in his Service, it having been prov'd by Experience, That the same was in a great measure, founded upon the Security of the Prince's Person, who before that time, having committed the whole Management of their standing Forces to the Nobility, thereby gave them frequent opportunies of abusing their Pow-

er,

er, in oppofition to the Royal Authority.

This Great Prince died in the Year 1676, much lamented by his People, whofe Darling he was, as having not once, in all his Reign, in the leaft abufed his Abfolute Power, but given them a thoufand Demonftrations of his Moderation, Juftice and Piety. It was he, that firft changed the face of Affairs of the *Ruffian* Empire, and laid that Foundation, upon which the Greatnefs of *Mufcovy* has been built fince that time, and which is likely to be brought to perfection, by the prefent Grand Czar *Peter Alexiovitz.*

He left the Succeffion of the Crown to his eldeft Son, *Fedor Alexiovitz*, who reigned but fix years, his early Lofs was likewife much lamented by his Subjects, being a very Accomplifh'd Perfon, and who had given extraordinary hopes of a Good and Great Prince, having exactly followed his Father's footfteps, efpecially in what concerns the foreign Officers, and the Encouragement of Commerce. He was a great lover of all Sciences, but efpecially of the Mathematicks, and defign'd to have all the Houfes of the City of *Mufcow*, new built of Brick, and the Streets pav'd with Stones, if he had not been prevented by Death; It was under his Reign, that General *Le Fort*, of whom I fhall have occafion to fpeak more anon, entred into the Service of *Mufcovy*. He was on a fudden, feiz'd by a violent and continual Feaver, of which he died in a few days afte; having before

his death appointed his younger Brother *Peter*, begotten by a second Adventure, his Successour, as judging his own Brother *Ivan* (*John*) who was of a weakly Constitution, uncapable of bearing the Burthen of so Great an Empire.

Accordingly *Peter Alexiovitz* was proclaimed Czar of *Muscovy*, when he was scarce eleven years of Age. By the Princess *Sophia*, Daughter of the deceased Czar *Alexis Michaelovitz*, by his first Marriage, being of a very aspiring Temper, and naturally disposed to Caballing, could not brook to see her own Brother excluded from the Succession to the *Russian* Throne; for which Reason, she set all her Engines at work, to put the Crown upon her Brother *Ivan Alexiovitz*, or rather, her own Head. The better to encompass this Design, she took care to have it spread abroad, that the late Czar *Fedor Alexiovitz*, her Brother, had been poysoned by the Physicians, at the Instigation of some of the Chief Men of the Empire, whose Names were industriously published as the Authors and Promoters of so hellish a Crime. Being sensible that nothing could strengthen her Interest more, than if she could draw the *Strelitzes* into her Party; it was rumour'd abroad, That a Design was form'd against them at Court, it being resolved, That the Strong Liquor which was to be given at the Czar's Funeral, should be mix'd with Poyson.

This

This fucceeded according to the Princeffes Expectation, for the *Strelitzes* being Enraged by this fudden and unexpected News, ran in a moft Furious manner to the Pallace, where they began the Fray with the Slaughter of two of the Czar's Phyficians, the Chief of whom was a *Jew* by Extraction; the next were fome of the Principal Officers of the Crown, fuch as were mark'd out by the Princefs, as being oppofite to her Intereft. Their Rage did not ftop here, but after they had committed a thoufand Infolences and Murthers, they affaulted, and entred the Czar *Peter Alexiovitz*'s Lodgings, where they flew many of his moft faithful Officers and Friends of the firft Quality, in his prefence, and then proclaimed Prince *Ivan Alexiovitz*, Grand Czar of *Mufcovy*, in conjunction with *Peter Alexiovitz*.

Thus a Calm fucceeded the Storm, which however lafted not long. For the Princefs *Sophia*, whofe Ambition was not fatisfied with feeing her Brother *Ivan* mounted upon the Throne, entred into fecret Cabals with *Fedor (Theodore) Chikolowitin*, the General of the *Strelitzes*, unto whom fhe reprefented, That fhe only having made ufe of her Brother, as a Pretext to put the Crown upon her own Head, fhe was willing to make him her Spoufe, and Affociate in the Empire, if he would join his Power and Intereft with hers, and that it would be no difficult Matter to compafs their Defign, the *Ruffian* Empire being too heavy

a Burthen for the Shoulders of two Infants.

The General of the *Strelitzes*, not able to resist such powerful Charms, they left no stone unturn'd to bring their projected Design to maturity, which was to be begun with the Death of both the Czars, and would in all humane probability have succeed according to their wish, if the Plot had not been timely discovered to Their Majesties.

The two Czars having all the reason in the World to mistrust the *Strelitzes*, retired thereupon to the Convent of *Troitza*, a strong and well fortified place, about twelve Leagues distance from the Capital City of *Muscow*, where Monsieur *Le Fort* gave them many signal Proofs of his Bravery and Fidelity. To be short, they drew the General of the *Strelitzes* into an Ambush near *Troitza*, where being taken, he was carried Prisoner into the Convent, and had his Head cut off. He was a Person of mean Extraction, who, as he had raised himself to that height by his own Valour, so he brought himself to a miserable End by his Treachery; The Princess *Sophia* was shut up in a Convent, where she is very narrowly watch'd.

Quiet being thus recovered in the Government, by removing the Two Chief Heads of the Rebellion, these Regiments of the *Strelitzes*, as had shew'd themselves most vigorous against the Czars Interest, being divided into many small Bodies, were sent into several parts of the Country under the Guard of some other Troops, whose

Officers

Officers having received ſecret Inſtructions to fall upon them at a certain appointed time, they put their Orders in execution, with ſo much Exactneſs, that very few eſcaped their Hands.

It was particularly taken notice of at that time, and look'd upon as a Preſage of the future Greatneſs of the preſent Czar *Peter Alexiovitz*, that, when ſeveral of his neareſt Friends were maſſacred by the Rebellious *Strelitzes* in his preſence, he did not ſhew the leaſt Alteration in his Countenance, which ſtruck ſuch an Amazement into the Soldiers, that they durſt not preſume to dethrone him, but were contented to proclaim his Brother *Ivan* his Aſſociate in the Empire. Thoſe who have known his preſent *Czariſh* Majeſty in his moſt tender Age, do unanimouſly confeſs, That from his very Infancy, there has been obſerved in him a certain Greatneſs of Soul, and a piercing Wit, much above the common Rank. He uſed to be very ſeldom idle, but always in Action, lively and briſk, and ſhew a great deal of eagerneſs to be inſtructed in all Matters of Moment, eſpecially in what had any relation to the Manners and Cuſtoms of foreign Nations. He was ſcarce fifteen years of Age, when he applied himſelf to the Study of the Mathematicks, his Inclinations tending more particularly to Navigation, and other Mechanick Arts, which he look'd upon as the moſt Inſtrumental, to promote theſe Great Deſigns, he has ſince put in execution with a moſt ſtupendious Conduct and Prudence.

In

In the last War betwixt the *Turks*, the *Emperour*, *Poland* and *Venice*, the *Czar* was Engaged in a War against the *Chineses*, who being, as it was supposed, encouraged by some Missionaries, had upon very frivolous Pretences attack'd the *Muscovites*; but the *Czar* being resolved not to let slip so favourable an opportunity to act against the *Ottomans*, in conjunction with the beforementioned Christian Princes, he chose rather to abate something of his Pretensions to procure a lasting Peace betwixt him and the *Chineses*. He had also all the Reason imaginable to promise himself a happy issue of this War on his side, the *Turks* being at that time by their ill Success, and the many Battels they had in *Hungary*; reduced to so low a condition, that they were not in a capacity to make any considerable resistance; and he look'd upon the Conquest of *Asoph* as a thing of so much consequence to the *Muscovite* Empire, that it ought to be attempted at any rate, especially since the Fortifications of that place were in so different a Condition, as to give him no small hopes of succeeding in this Enterprize.

Besides this, the *Czar* was induced by another motive, which as it was nearer home, so he look'd upon it as the most pressing in relation to his own Person. He had as yet in fresh memory the rebellious inclinations of his Guards the *Strelitzes* and did not question, but that by this War he should find means to rid himself of them, or at least to repress their Insolence, by augmenting the number of foreign Officers,

ficers, well qualified and exerciſed in the Military Art, whoſe Fortunes depending abſolutely on him, he might intirely be aſſured of their Service and Fidelity. Accordingly it was reſolved to make conſiderable new Levies to be commanded by foreign Officers whoſe number was augmented to eight thouſand; and the Troops under their Command being in ſome time after, brought by their care under a very regular Diſcpline in the year 1695. The City of *Aſoph* and *Kaſikermeen* were both beſieged the ſame time, to render the relief of *Aſoph* the more difficult to the Enemy, this being the place Chiefly aimed at by the *Muſcovites.*

Our Geographers do moſt commonly fix the ſcituation of *Aſoph* to the North of the River *Tanais* on the ſide of the *Crim Tartary,* whereas its true ſcituation is to the *South,* on the ſide of *Circaſſia,* upon a riſing ground very near the *Palus Mœtis.* Neither is this City built upon an Iſland, as it is repreſented in ſome Maps, neither are any other Iſlands to be ſeen thereabouts, either near the mouth of the River, or in the *Palus Mœtis* it ſelf, as it is likewiſe expreſſed in theſe Maps, unleſs it be one very ſmall Iſle which lies at the very mouth of the River *Tanais* (now a-days called the *Don*) towards the North-weſt, very near the Coaſt.

About two Leagues above this Fortreſs, the River *Tanais* emits a branch which runs towards the North, in the form of

a Semy-circle before it enters the *Palus Mætis*, but it is both very narrow and ſhallow. A good way, beyond this, a little above the Town, iſſues forth another Branch, which ruuning likewiſe to the North in the form, approaching to a Semy-circle, divides it ſelf into five other Branches, juſt before it diſembogues into the Sea. But this Branch is alſo of a very ſlender depth, and the Ground thereabouts, through which thoſe ſeveral Channels paſs, very low and Marſhy, ſo, that at high Water when the Wind blows ſtrong from the South, which drives the Waters from the black Sea, upon that Coaſt, all the Country hereabouts lies under Water.

You will, I ſuppoſe, be not a little ſurpriſed, when I tell you, that the *Muſcovites* in their Maps put *Aſoph* under the 47th degree of Northern Latitude, and ſo do likewiſe the *Turks*; whereas in our Maps we find it under the 51 degree, or thereabouts. But, what deſerves our particular obſervation is, That our Maps agree exactly with theirs in the ſcituation of that part of the Country where the *Tanais* or *Don*, approaches neareſt to the River *Wolga*, which both they and we put under the 49th Degree. I can only thus much aſſure you, that the *Muſcovites*, who are generally taken for very ignorant and unpoliſh'd, have compoſed the moſt exacteſt Maps of their own Country in the World, I having ſeen ſome of them my ſelf; and that they

they exclaim against ours, as very imperfect in this point.

The City of *Asoph* was formerly no more than a small Place, fortified only with one single Wall, after a very irregular manner; its Form approaching to a *Hexagon*, two of its opposite sides lying near parallel with the River, surrounded with many Towers, after the ancient Fashion. About the middle of that side which is opposite to the *West*, there was a very large Tower of a considerable heighth, round at the bottom, running up like a Pyramid, but flat on the top; within the body of the Place there was another Retrenchment, which supplied the place of a Cittadel, and was provided always with a good Garrison. The *Turks* afterwards surrounded the whole with new Fortifications of Earth, compos'd of our large and high Bastions, but not very regular, yet is the Ditch both very broad and deep. Two of these Bastions towards the *South-East* Side lie pretty close to one another, for the better defence of the Place, in respect of the nearness of several Hills, which else would command the Town. The third Bastion to the *South-West*, is at a great distance from the other two, and the fourth Bastion towards the *West* is yet further distant from the third. The Courtin betwixt these two last Bastions has in the midst an Obtuse Angle; the like has also the Courtin towards the *East*, which runs down to the River; and on the River side it is very well provided with strong Pallisadoes.

Besides

Besides this, they had built a little above the Place two strong Towers of brick-work, and of a quadrangular figure; one on each side of the River, provided with good store of Cannon, by which means, and a very strong Chain, they prevented the *Donaick Cosacks* from passing that way to the black Sea, who formerly used to take the advantage of the darkness of the Night, when they went a Pyrating upon the *Turks*. This was the condition of *Asoph*, when the *Muscovites* first laid siege to it, in the Year 1695.

It may well seem strange, that the *Turks* should either so little understand the advantage of the Scituation of this Important Place, or else be so negligent in providing for its Security, as not to take away all Hopes from the *Muscovites* of succeeding in this Enterprise. In my Opinion, it was not only their highest Interest to have secured a Place of so much Consequence against any Attempt of this nature, by rendring it Impregnable, but also to have as much as possibly they could, extend their Conquests on that side, by making themselves Masters of the Country betwixt the Rivers *Don* and *Wolga*, which thereabouts approach within seven Leagues distance to one another. Besides which, there are two other Rivers betwixt the *Don* and the *Wolga*, one of which coming from the *North East*, is pretty large, and discharges it self into the River *Don*. The other much lesser, coming from the *South West*, disembogues into the *Wolga*. These two Rivers carry their

Currents

Currents within one League and an half diſtance. Theſe two Rivers, are inviſible in our Maps, in lieu of which they have obtruded upon us a ſuppoſitious River, called *Camus*, which is not to be found thereabouts. The Ground betwixt theſe two Rivers is very convenient for Building of Forts and Fortifications, there being but a few ſmall Rocks, which may be made paſſable, and convenient enough for ſuch an Undertaking.

The *Turks* ſhewed themſelves but indifferent Politicians, and who had but a ſlender inſight in matters of this nature, when they let ſlip ſo favourable an Opportunity of extending their Conqueſts on that ſide during the Inteſtine Troubles, which harraſſed, and almoſt deſtroyed the *Muſcovite* Empire in our Age, at the ſame time that the *Ottomans* were in a moſt flouriſhing Condition. If they at that time had joined theſe two Rivers by a Canal, and ſtrengthened the ſame with ſome Forts; or if they had built but one conſiderable Fortreſs upon the River *Wolga*, the whole Kingdom of *Aſtracan* muſt of neceſſity have fall'n into their Hands, by which means it would have been no difficult task for them to render themſelves Maſters of the *Caſpian* Lake, or Sea, which is the Inlett into the Heart of *Perſia*, and at no great diſtance from the *Indies*, Subject to the Great *Mogul*, and for the reſt it is ſurrounded by a great number of Petty *Tartarian* Princes, who might either have been eaſily Conquered, or at leaſt

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brought over to their Party to make them instrumental in the Conqueſt of *Aſia*, What would in ſuch a Caſe have become of the *Muſcovites*, who would have been continually allarm'd, and harraſſed on all ſides by an infinite number of *Tartars*, by thoſe of the *Crimea*, of *Circaſſa*, *Bulgaria*, by the *Calmuck* and *Mogul Tartars*, who like a Torrent would have over-run this vaſt Empire, and would have rendred the Conqueſt of all the Circumjacent Countries as cheap and eaſie to the *Turks*, as theſe Vagabonds formerly did, when they took up Arms under thoſe Renown'd Heroes, *Ginghis Khan*, and *Tamur Lenek*.

There are two things which prevented the *Turks* from making uſe of that critical Juncture to their Advantage. The firſt was, that they look'd upon the *Muſcovites* as too inconſiderable to ſtand ever in Competition with them, ſeeing they had not Courage enough to accept of the Fortreſs of *Aſoph* from the *Coſſacks*, who had taken it by Surpriſe. The ſecond was, That they were not ſo fully ſatisfied of the Conſequence and uſe of a good Naval Strength, by which means they might moſt conveniently have enlarged their Dominions on that ſide, and carried the terror of their Arms not only along the *Wolga*, but alſo by the way of the *Caſpian* Sea into the very heart of *Aſia*.

But to return to the Siege of *Aſoph*.

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The *Turks* had provided the City of *Aſoph* with great Stores of Ammunition and Proviſion, and all other things neceſſary for a long and vigorous Defence, the Garriſon conſiſting of ten Thouſand choſen *Turks* and *Tartars*; notwithſtanding which, the preſent *Czar Peter Alexiovitz* reſolved to beſiege it in Perſon. His Army conſiſted of one Hundred Thouſand Foot, and twenty Thouſand Horſe, all choſen Troops, and among them the whole Body of his Guards, or *Strelitzes*, commanded under the *Czar*, by a great many good and Experienced Generals.

Whilſt they were buſy in perfecting the Lines of Circnmvallation, and Contravallation,and carrying on the Trenches,the *Czar* ordered a ſmall Fort of four Baſtionsto be made at ſome diſtance above the two abovementioned brick Towers on the *South* ſide of the River, upon a piece of Ground that lies betwixt, and is encompaſſed by two ſmall branches which ſpring out of that River, and re-unite themſelves about half ways diſtance betwixt theſe Towers and the City. All the Communication being cut off betwixt the Place and the Towers by theſe two branches, it was not long before the *Muſcovites* made themſelves Maſters of them, and it being judged moſt expedient to Fortifie that, on the *South* ſide of the River, it was immediately put in Execution accordingly, by ſurrounding it with three good Baſtions, and an Angle on each of the Courtins on the

River ſide. The Fort was called *Calanſa.*

In the mean while the Trenches were carried on with the utmoſt Expedition and Vigour, eſpecially on the *South Eaſt* ſide of the Place, where the *Muſcovites* being advanced to the top of the Hills, which in ſome meaſure command the Town, they Fired moſt furiouſly out of their Cannon, and threw a prodigious number of Bombs into the Place, by which means they hop'd ſoon to terrifie the Garriſon to come to a Capitulation; but thoſe within conſiſting of old and well Diſciplin'd Trcops, who were not to be vanquiſh'd at a diſtance, the Trenches were carried on to the body of the Place, but not without great Slaughter on the *Muſcovite* ſide; the Enemies by their frequent and vigorous Sallies diſputing every Inch of Ground with the utmoſt bravery. The *Muſcovites* were likewiſe couragiouſly repulſed in ſeveral Attacks before they could lodge themſelves upon one of the baſtions, where the Garriſon, like deſperate Men, fell upon them with ſuch an incredible Fury, that the *Ruſſians* after a moſt obſtinate Defence, were forced to quit it at laſt, with the loſs of a great number of their Men, eſpecially of the *Strelitzes*, who, as they were moſt expoſed, ſo they bore moſt commonly the greateſt Share in the loſs, the *Czar* making uſe of this Opportunity, both to try their Valour, and rid his Hands of them in a handſome way; though at the ſame time it muſt be confeſs'd to his Immortal Glory,

that

that he was not ſparing of his own Perſon, but expoſed himſelf to the Enemies Fire as well in the ſeveral Attacks that were made, as upon other occaſions, having had ſeveral Perſons ſlain by his ſide in the Sallies made by the Beſieged. The invincible Reſolution of the Garriſon thus protracting the Siege beyond all Expectation, the *Muſcovites* began to be in want both of Ammunition and Proviſions, which, together with the approaching cold and wet Seaſon, obliged them to change the Siege into a Blockade.

But the Diſgrace received before *Aſeph*, was in ſome meaſure recompenſed by the Conqueſt of *Kaſiker meen*, a *Tartarian* City Scituated on the *South* ſide of the River *Boriſthenes*, about two Leagues diſtance from the *Black-Sea*.

It is encompaſſed by four ſtrong brick Forts of a quadrangular Figure, and an equal bigneſs, adjoining to one another. Three of them lye upon a ſtrait Line, but the Fourth makes up a right Angle with the Second. The firſt of theſe Quadrangular Forts lies upon the very Bank of the River *Boriſthenes*, being Flancked with ſeveral good Towers as well as the two others, which are upon the ſame Line. But the fourth exceeds the three others in Strength, being on one ſide provided, inſtead of Towers, with two large, and high Baſtions, ſurrounded with a good Ditch.

Juſt oppoſite to the place you ſee a ſmall Iſland in the River *Boriſthenes*, re-

ſembling in form, a Neats Tongue, called in their Language *Towan*. Upon this Iſland the *Tartars* had erected two Forts of four Baſtions each, which on the upper end of the Iſland was called *Momberethkermeen*; as the other on the lower part was named *Muſtritkermeen*; on the oppoſite ſide of the River belonging to the *Crim Tartars*, there was alſo another Fort in all reſpects like to the other two, juſt over againſt *Mombarethkermeen*, upon the Bank of the before-mentioned River *Boriſthenes*.

The Army of his *Czariſh* Majeſty was chiefly compos'd of *Coſſacks*, inhabiting thoſe parts, and who ſome years before had ſubmitted to the *Czar*'s Obedience. To facilitate the Siege of *Kaſikermeen*, it was reſolv'd to Attack firſt the ſaid Forts, which being done, accordingly they were ſoon taken by the brave *Coſſacks* who immediately after laid Siege to the Place it ſelf.

The main Attack was carried on againſt the Fort with the two baſtions, the Ground thereabouts being moſt proper for the carrying on of the Trenches, which were advanc'd with ſo much Expedition, that in a ſhort time they carried it by Aſſault. The Enemies however got time to retreat into the other Forts, where having beat a Parley, it was agreed that they ſhould March out of the Place with their Arms and Baggage, *&c.*

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The *Muſcovite* Army on that ſide was commanded by the General *Czeremetoff*, who having contrary to the Capitulation, connived at ſome diſorders committed by the *Coſſacks* againſt the Garriſon; his *Czariſh* Majeſty was ſo much diſſatisfied at it, that he ſhewed his Reſentment in very hard Terms to the General. He, who did not expect ſuch a Reprimand, deſired thereupon leave from the *Czar* to lay down his Commiſſion, which being readily granted him likewiſe beyond his expectation, he, afterwards repented atleiſure. The better to divert himſelf in this Melanchollly Diſpoſition, he reſolved to Travel in Forreign Countries, and you are not ignorant, how he viſited moſt of the Courts of *Italy*, and had the Curioſity to go to the Iſle of *Maltha*, where, as well as in all other Places, thro' which he Travelled, he was receiv'd with all imaginable Reſpect due to his Birth and Merits.

The ſucceeding Winter was chiefly taken up with vaſt Preparations for the next enſuing Campaign, which being to be open'd with the Siege of *Aſoph*, great ſtores of Ammunition, Bombs, and Proviſions were got in readineſs for that Enterpriſe to prevent the *Turks* from ſending any Relief by Sea; many Gallies and Brigantines were order'd to be built near the City of *Muſcow*, but eſpecially at *Veranowitz*, a City Scituate on the River *Don*, about a Hundred Leagues diſtant from the Capital City. But what is moſt remarkable is that the *Czar Pe-*

ter having a particular curiosity to be present at the building of some of the biggest Gallies, he caused them to be set upon the Stock, in the River *Ocea*, at some small distance from the City of *Muscow*, they being from thence to be Transported to *Veranowitz* by Land, were so artificially contrived, that they might be taken to pieces without much trouble, and so be joined together again at *Veranowitz*.

To be short, by the great Vigilancy of his *Czarish* Majesty, all things were got in such forwardness, that there was nothing wanting to put the projected Design in Execution.

'Tis to be observ'd that the City of *Asoph* had been kept block'd up during the whole Winter, and that the *Muscovites* having maintain'd their Post all this while upon the abovementioned Hills, which overlook the Place, they had been so Industrious in guarding all the Avenues, that the Besieged had not receiv'd the least Supply of Men, or Provisions. To cut off all further hopes of Succours, it was resolved to open the Campaign very early in the Spring, for which purpose all the Troops design'd for this Expedition, were order'd to March to their Rendezvous, and from thence strait to the Siege of *Asoph*, which was begun by throiwng a most prodigious quantity of Bombs into the place, with such extraordinary Success, that the whole Body of the City was reduced to Ashes, and Rubbish, and the old Fortifications to

on

one large Stone heap, ſo that there was ſcarce a place left for the Garriſon to ſhelter themſelves againſt the fury of the Enemies Cannon and Bombs, all being deſtroyed even to the deepeſt Vaults and Caves.

Beſides which, the Number of the beſieged was reduced to leſs than two thouſand Men capable of bearing of Arms, both by the furious Attacks made upon the place in the laſt years Siege, and the continual firing from the *Muſcovites* Great Artillery, and throwing in of Bombs; in this; notwithſtanding which, they were deaf to any propoſals of a ſurrender, living in hopes of the promiſed Succours.

At laſt it appeared, to their great Joy and Satisfaction, conſiſting of twelve Gallies, a great number of Saiques laden with Proviſions and Ammunition, and a good number of freſh Troops, beſides fifty thouſand Ducats, to be diſtributed among thoſe brave Fellows that had ſo Valiantly defended their Poſt.

His *Czariſh* Majeſty having before-hand received Intelligence of the approach of this Succours, had cauſed ſeven of his largeſt Gallies, of a hundred foot length each, beſides ſeveral leſſer, and a great number of Brigantines to paſs that ſmall branch of the *Don*, which iſſues forth a little above the Town As the Water is very ſhallow in this Channel, ſo it was not without a great deal of difficulty, that the largeſt Gallies could be brought along that

way, and would in all likelihood have ſcarce ſucceeded, if the *Czar* by his Preſence and Encouragement had not animated the Workmen to ſurpaſs all Difficulties, which at laſt they did, to the no ſmall Aſtoniſhment of the beſieged.

This Obſtacle being happily ſurmounted, his Czariſh Majeſty judged it of very great conſequence for his purpoſe to plant good Store of Cannon upon the little Iſland we have mentioned before, becauſe the Shoar being very low, the Cannon-ball would ſtrike even with the ſurface of the Water; beſides, that the greateſt part of the Iſle being covered with Wood, did prevent the Enemy from diſcovering the Deſign.

The ſame favourable diſpoſition of this Iſland, furniſhed the *Muſcovites* with an Opportunity of putting ſome of their lighteſt Gallies and Brigantines for a Reſerve, behind the Iſle, unperceiv'd by the Enemy, whom they intended thus to attack both in Front and Flank, as they paſſed by that way, which ſucceeded according to Expectation.

For, all theſe Precautions having been taken before the Enemies Fleet came in ſight, ſome of the biggeſt *Muſcovite* Gallies, with many Brigantines were ſent out to meet them, making a Show, as if they intended to Engage the *Turkiſh* Fleet; but no ſooner were they come within Cannon-Shot of one another, but the *Muſcovites* feigning to dread the *Ottoman* Fleet, ſuperior in Number to them, made a run-

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ning Fight, making the beſt of their way towards the Shoar, and poſted themſelves below the Iſland. The *Turks* perceiving the Enemy to fly before them, and not in the leaſt forewarn'd of the reſt that laid behind the Iſland, thought themſelves, by the ſmall number of the *Muſcovite* Gallies, that appear'd in ſight, aſſur'd of the Victory.

Fluſh'd with theſe hopes, they made all the Sail they could to fall in among the *Muſcovites*, but no ſooner were they come within reach of the Cannon from the Iſle, but they receiv'd ſuch a warm Salute from thence, that they ſaw their Gallies torn to pieces on all ſides by the Enemies Cannon, in an inſtant, with a great Slaughter of many of their Men. But this was only the fore-runner of what was to enſue.

For his *Czariſh* Majeſty, who had a watchful eye on all ſides, and who was ſometimes upon the Iſle, ſometimes on board the Fleet of Reſerve, that lay behind, having ſoon obſerved the Conſternation the *Turks* were put in by this unexpected Salute, and willing to improve their Confuſion to his Advantage, got on board in Perſon one of the lighteſt Gallies, Man'd only with forty Men, giving the Signal for the reſt to follow him with all the Oars they could. Thus the Enemy found themſelves ſurrounded on all ſides by the *Muſcovites*, who attack'd them with great bravery; the *Czar* himſelf boarding the *Turkiſh* Ad-

miral,

miral, and being succesfully, seconded by the rest, the Victory was almost as soon compleated as begun, the *Turks* being routed so entirely, that not one Gally escaped, but what was either sunk or taken; and it must be confess'd, That the *Czar* shew'd so much Conduct during the whole Action, that no more could have been expected from the Prudence and Valour of the greatest Captain of onr time.

So compleat a Victory soon decided the Destiny of *Asoph*, for the Garrison, who had been Spectators of their Loss, being now bereav'd of all Hopes of Succours, demanded a capitulation. In consideration very honourable of their bravery, they had Conditions granted them, it being comprehended in one of the Articles, that before their marching out of the Place, they should surrender to the *Muscovites* a certain Officer, who had deserted his *Czarish* Majesty's Service, and discovered what he knew concerning his Designs to the Enemy. The *Czar* to recompence the Sea-Officers and others on board his Fleet for their last Service, and to give them some marks of his Liberality, ordered the Fifty Thousand Ducats, taken on board the *Turkish* Admiral, to be distributed among them.

Asoph was no sooner surrendred, but the *Czar* made it appear to all the World, that he was sufficiently sensible of what Consequence the Conquest of this Place was to his Affairs For, the first thing he did,

did, was to give his Orders for the reſtoring the Fortifications, and bringing them with all poſſible Speed, to a ſtate of Defence; and not content with this, he cauſed the Ancient Walls within the Fortifications, for the moſt part ruin'd by the Bombs, to be entirely raſed, and in lieu thereof, the Foundation was laid of a new City, to extend to the Fortifications made of Earth.

Theſe were likewiſe conſiderably augmented by the Addition of two new Baſtions in the ſame places where we mentioned before the two obtuſe Angles to have been. All the ancient Baſtions were enlarged, and made regular, according to our modern Rules of Fortification; each of them being ſtrengthened by a Half-Moon. The Ditch was defended by a good Counterſcarp, with a cover'd way, from whence was carried a Line up to the top of the Hill, which overlooks the Town, where a goodly Fort was erected for the Defence of the Line, and to keep a Communication with the Place.

All theſe Precautions, though very conſiderable in themſelves, yet were thought inſufficient in reſpect of the Accompliſhment of his *Czariſh* Majeſty's Deſign, who was reſolv'd to render *Aſoph* impregnable, as being the main Frontier place on that ſide of the Empire. Purſuant to this Deſign, the Foundation was laid of a new Fortreſs, juſt oppoſite to *Aſop*, in the marſhy Grounds,

Grounds, which was to have a Communication with that City by a bridge of thirty Arches to be built over the Marſhes. This Deſign, of which I have ſeen the Model, was ſoon put in Execution, the City which was to be put in the Center of the place being called *St. Peter*.

The whole Body of the Fortifications conſiſted of ſix Baſtions, the two firſt facing the River ſide, with a Half-Moon betwixt them. The other two Baſtions lying on each ſide are at a ſmall diſtance from the others; but the two oppoſite to the *North*, lye at a much greater diſtance, defended by three Half-Moons The whole is ſurrounded with a double Ditch, and a cover'd way. The Ground upon which this Fortreſs was built, is raiſed to that heighth, as to command *Aſoph*, and when the Wind blows from the *South*, the Marſhes round about the Fortreſs are all under Water, ſo that there is but one way to approach it, to wit, by the Bridge.

Theſe Fortifications would have been more than ſufficient, if His Majeſty had had no other deſign than to defend his Frontiers, to bridle the *rim Tartars*, and to keep the neighbouring *Coſacks* inhabiting the Country, near the *Don*, in awe, but this Monarch had matters of greater Conſequence in view, which he knew would in a little time redound to the great benefit of the Empire. His deſign was to make uſe of this place to ſerve for the conveniency of carrying down the River the Commodities of

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the product of *Muſcovy* into the *Palus Mæotis*, and to tranſport them by the way of *Caffa*, and *Conſtantinople*, into *Italy*.

He wiſely foreſaw that by this means he might introduce, and ſettle Navigation in his Dominions, to the great encreaſe of the Wealth of his Subjects, who thereby would be uſed to the Sea, ſo that in time they might render themſelves redoubtable to their Enemies. But to bring this great and noble Deſign to Perfection, it was abſolutely neceſſary to put the *Muſcovite* Fleet into ſuch a Condition, as to be able to coop with the *Turks* in the *Black Sea*, and to render themſelves ſo formidable, that the Enemies might be obliged at the next Peace to allow them a free Commerce, and the Liberty of their Ports upon thoſe Coaſts, and of *Conſtantinople* it ſelf.

By the reſtoring, and ſtrengthning the Fortifications of *Aſoph*, and laying the Foundation of the new Fortreſs of St. *Peter*, the preſent *Czar* had in view three great Points, each of which, as it tended to the great benefit of the Empire, ſo it was ſufficient to Eternalize his Memory.

The firſt was the making of a convenient and ſafe Harbour, capable to contain a great Fleet.

The ſecond, the joining of the two Rivers, the *Wolga*, and *Don*, by a Canal, fit to carry Ships of a great bulk.

And Laſtly, the building, and equipping of fourſcore Men of War, as well Frigats

as

as Gallies, with a hundred and fifty Brigantines, to make Head againſt the *Turks*, whereever they ſhould attempt to diſpute with him the free Commerce at Sea.

It was found quite impracticable to render *Aſoph* a good Port; for, tho' the River *Don* is the moſt proper in the World for Shipping betwixt *Veranowitz* and *Aſoph*, as being very deep, without any Iſlands, and its Current very ſmooth, being not interrupted by any Sands; but the Mouth of this River is ſo full of Shelves, and choak'd up with Sands, that at Ebb-Tide there is not above ſeven Foot Water, ſo that thoſe Geographers who have deſcrib'd us the Entrance of this River as very convenient, and one of the moſt famous Ports, have impoſed their own Inventions upon the World for Truth.

It was for this reaſon His *Czariſh* Majeſty ordered the Coaſt thereabouts to be ſounded, being willing to find out a convenient Place to make a Port of, as near as poſſibly could be to the City of *Aſoph*. When the *Turks* formerly uſed to ſend any Ships of a conſiderable burthen to that Town, they were obliged to unload near the Entrance of the River *Mious*, in the *Crim Tartary*, about five and twenty Leagues diſtance from *Aſoph*, where at Low Water, it is at leaſt fifteen or ſixteen Foot deep.

The *Muſcovites* ſounding along the ſame Coaſt, came to a certain Cape at about ſeven Leagues diſtance from the *Don*, where, at

an Ebb Tide there was twelve Foot Water. The Coaſt was hereabouts very high, and ſteep, the Ground Sandy, but ſo hard, that it reſembled both in Subſtance and Hardneſs a Free-Stone. To the *Eaſt* of the Cape there was a ſmall Bay, and at about a Leagues diſtance from thence to the *Weſt*, there was a ſmall River, whoſe Current turn'd in form of a Half-Moon,round that Point of the Land. The Shoar from the bay was of an eaſie Aſcent.

The *Czar* having been exactly informed concerning the convenient Scituation of this Place, order'd a Fort of Five baſtions to be erected, and a City to be built ſomewhat below it, likewiſe defended by a good Fortification, betwixt which and the Bay there was a Plain, through which was to be cut the great Channel, vvhich vvas to diſſembogue near the Point of the Land, into the Sea; and in the midſt of this, there vvas to iſſue another leſs Channel tovvards the Bay, for the conveniency of Veſſels of leſs burthen. I have ſeen the Model of the vvhole Deſign. The Port is to be Three Thouſand Seven Hundred and Fifty Feet long, and half as broad.

Concerning the Conjunction of the Rivers, *Wolga* and *Don*, vve have already mentioned before the advantageous Scituacion of the Grounds betvvixt the tvvo Rivers, and the condition of the tvvo leſſer ones, vvhich come vvithin a much nearer diſtance of one another, ſo that the vvhole deſign

design being founded upon very good Grounds, it will succeed in all Probability. For it is proposed to stop the Waters of these two lesser Rivers, which are to be join'd in the Grand Canal by many Sluices, to bring them to such a heighth as shall be judged sufficient for the passage of Ships of a considerable burthen; there are daily above twenty Thousand Men Employed to dig the Ground, besides others who are to bring the whole to Perfection.

As to what relates to the third part to wit, his Navy, it must be confessed that the *Czar* made use in this Point of all the foresight and Prudence that could be expected from the most refin'd Politician. For, being immoveable in his Resolution of ridding his Hands of the *Strelitzes*, that used to stand under the Command of the best of the *Russian* Nobility, he judged not without Reason that at this Juncture he could not pitch upon a more seasonable and more glorious Expedient than this, to Employ them in the Service of their Country, and at the same time to take away from them all opportunities of future Revolts. Pursuant to this Resolution, he issued his Declaration, wherein he told them that the Present State of Affairs being such, as required the *Muscovites* to appear formidable at Sea, and he being fully convinced, both of their Valour, and Fidelity, he wished nothing more at this time, than to see them apply themselves to the Knowledge of Maritime Affairs,

to

to qualifie themſelves for the beſt Commands at Sea. That for this purpoſe he had taken all imaginable care to provide a ſufficient number of Sea Officers, Famous for their Skill in Maritime Affairs, and the managing of Sea Engagements, under whoſe Conduct they might be trained up in this Art, and fitted for the higheſt Commands. That he being reſolved to try the Foundation of the preſent Glory of the *Ruſſian* Monarchy upon its Naval Strength, and rendring himſelf redoubtable at Sea, would head them in Perſon, and ſhew them by his own Example what Footſteps to tread in. Accordingly it was reſolved, that each Subject, proportionable to his Ability, ſhould contribute to the Equipping, and maintenance of a certain number of Men of War, the chief Cities of the Empire, being likewiſe obliged to bear a proportion in this Tax. By this means His Majeſty Equipped a good Fleet without the leaſt impairing his ordinary Revenue, and engaged at the ſame time the Nobility, and chief Men in the Cities to take Cognizance of Maritime Affairs, to render themſelves capable of the Sea-Service, which they were to look upon for the future, as the main and moſt durable Eſtabliſhment of the whole Empire.

Theſe ſeveral Projects were no ſooner ſet on foot with the utmoſt Expedition, by the moſt admirable Vigilancy, and indefatigable Care of the *Czar*, put towards

Autumn, he set out on his Journey in order to his return to the Capital City of *Muscow*, leaving a great body of his Troops under the Command of the *Generalissimo* of his Armies, the Prince *Alekis Simoniwitz Schein*, near *Asoph*, to cover the Workmen that were Employed in bringing the Works projected thereabouts to Perfection. At his Arrival in the City of *Muscow*, he was received with all the Demonstrations of Honour due to a Conquerour, Marching along the Streets to the Castle in Triumph, with a great many Chariots loaden with the Spoils of the Enemy, and Prisoners, before him. Among the rest was to be seen the Officer, who having Deserted the *Czar*'s Service, was surrender'd to the *Muscovites*, pursuant to the Capitulation before *Asoph*; had his Hands tied behind him, and was soon after Executed, as a Terrour to others. It is past Expression, with what loud and joyful Acclamations this publick Entry was Solemnized by the People, who flocked thither from all Parts to adorn the Triumph of the Conquering Prince. Great were the Rejoicings that were made that Night all over the City, but the best was reserved till the Winter: when a most Glorious Firework was let off upon the Ice.

The whole was composed of several Artificial Machines, inclosed in a double Square, surrounded with Rockets of all sorts and Sizes, which took up a great space upon the Ice.

His

His *Czarish* Majesty took a particular Delight to be among the Engineers, and had himself a Hand in making the greatest Machine, which was erected in the very Center of the rest. It was a double Spread Eagle, who with his left Paw darted Rockets upon an Horrizontal Line at one of the Horns of a Half-Moon, which succeeded according to Wish; the Fireworks continued all the Night long, the whole Design of it being laid by His Majesty himself, and drawn with his own Hand, which he did me the Honour to shew me in Person.

Notwithstanding that the whole Empire seem'd to take Share in the Glorious Conquest of their Prince, and that nothing but Feastings, and Rejoicings were to be seen in all Parts, during the whole Winter; there remained neverthelesś, a certain discontented Party among the Nobility, who being encouraged by the secret Cabals of the Princess *Sophia*, found means, in spight of her Confinement, to keep an underhand Correspondence with her, for the promoting their Designs against the *Czar*'s Person. They were so well prepared for the Undertaking of any Enterprize of this Nature, that there wanted but little Fuel to kindle the Flame; They could not brook the Loss of their beloved *Strelitzes*, whom they had always look'd upon as the Chief Supporters of their Authority; which at last made them conceive so implacable a Hatred a-

gainſt the Czar, that they entred into a Conſpiracy againſt his Life. To put their Deſign in execution, they had brought over to their Party four Captains of the firſt Regiment of the *Strelitzes*; but the difficulty was, in what manner the Attempt was to be made. For they look'd upon it as impracticable, to declare openly againſt a Prince, who, beſides that he was much beloved by the People, had at his devotion a good Number of the beſt Troops, Commanded by foreign Officers, who were quartered in and about the City of *Muſcow*, and ready upon all Occaſions to ſacrifice their Lives for His Majeſty. It was propoſed among them, That the Czar was uſed to go ſometimes abroad with very ſlender Attendance, and to appear in the Streets of *Muſcow* without any conſiderable Retinue; this was alſo look'd upon as too dangerous, conſidering the general Love the People bore to his Perſon.

After many Debates, it was at laſt reſolved, That conſidering the Czar, who takes ſhare in every thing that concerns his Subjects Welfare, was wont to appear in Perſon, in caſe of any Accident of Fire, which frequently happens, and makes a moſt terrible Havock in the City of *Muſcow*, where moſt of the Houſes are of Wood; they look'd upon this as the moſt proper Opportunity to encompaſs their Deſign; wherefore it was concluded to ſet Fire to ſome Houſes in the night-time, when they did not queſtion to draw the

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Czar thither, and during the Confuſion, to find means to Aſſaſſinate him. The next thing to be done was, (according to their own Confeſſion) to have joyn'd the *Donaick Coſſacks* with their Party, to have releaſed the Princeſs *Sophia* from her Confinement, recall'd Prince *Waſſily Galizin* out of *Siberia*, and ſurrendred the Adminiſtration of the Govevernment into their hands, who were alſo to reſtore the *Strelitzes* to their antient Station.

But it pleaſed Heaven to touch the hearts of two of theſe four Captains, that were Engaged in this Conſpiracy; their Names were *Largon Giliſarof* and *Gregory Sileri*, who being ſtruck with Remorſe at the penetrating of ſo deteſtable a Fact, did throw themſelves at His Majeſty's feet, ingenuouſly confeſſing their Crimes, and diſcovering their Accomplices, that very day preceding the Night when this Tragedy was to be acted.

It was on the 1ſt day of *February*, in the year 1697, when His Majeſty was inform'd concerning this Conſpiracy formed againſt his Life, at the Houſe of General *Le Fort*, where he happened to dine that Day. He appear'd very little mov'd at ſo ſurpriſing a piece of News, but, without any Change in his Countenance, aroſe from the Table, and being followed only by a few Perſons, in whom he confided moſt, he went directly to the Houſe of the Chief of the Conſpirators, whoſe Name was *John Sickler*, and elevated by the Czar to the

Dignity of a Councellour of State. When His Majesty came to the House of this wicked Wretch, he commanded the rest to remain without doors; He himself entred only with three Gentlemen more, and pretending he had occasion to ask his Advice in some Matter of Moment, ordered he should follow him; But no sooner was he come into the Street but he was seiz'd, and immediately carried to Prison, as were likewise five more that were his Accomplices in the Conspiracy; to wit, The *Boyar Alexis Sekounin*, *Fedor Puskin*, Son of the *Boyar*, *Matfe Puskin*, two Captains of the *Strelitzes*, and a *Donaick Cossack*. They all confess'd their Crimes, and being condemned by all the *Boyars*, were executed on the fifth day of *March*, in the Year 1697, in the Great Market-place before the Castle. First, their Arms and Legs were cut off, then they had their Heads severed from their Bodies. Their Heads were fixed on the top of a Stone Column, erected for that purpose, and their Arms and Legs stuck upon Iron-bars round about it; the Trunks of their dead Carcasses were left in the Market-place for eight days after, till the Scent became so nauseous to the Inhabitants, that they were forced to be remov'd from thence.

It having by Confession of some of the Conspirators been made apparent, That the *Boyar*, *Ivan Miloslaski* was the Chief Head of the Rebellion which hapned in the year 1682, immediately after his present Czar-

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Majesty's Accession to the Crown, his Body was disinterr'd, which being found very near intire, without any considerable decay (tho' it had lain under ground near twelve Years,) several Gibbets were erected, on which were hung the Quarters of his Carcass, which were torn to pieces in an instance by the enraged Multitude.

These several In-lets contrived and carried on against his Czarish Majesty's Person and Life, are so many instances, to convince the World, how dangerous it is for a Prince to change the antient form of a Government, it being unquestionable, that thereby he must needs draw upon himself the implacable Hatred of that Party, who are Sufferers by that Change. But it must also be confess'd, that nothing can be more glorious for a Prince, than to promote the publick Welfare, at the peril of his own Life; which may without the least Contradiction to truth, be applyed to the present Czar *Peter Alexiovitz*, who had no other Aim in removing the antient establish'd Guards of the *Strelitzes*, from their Station, than the publick Tranquility; knowing this arrogant and violent body of Troops, to have been the Source of the many Revolts and Troubles, that have harassed the *Russian* Empire in our Age.

His Majesty was graciously pleased to pardon such of the Conspirators, as were not so deeply engaged in the Design against his Life, being now resolved to

begin his Journey into *Germany*, with all imaginable Expedition. It is to be taken Notice of, That this Prince had for a considerable time before premeditated this Journey, but had only suspended his Resolution till he saw the Success of the Siege of *Asoph*, not questioning but that he should then be for some time upon the defensive, till the beforementioned Fortifications, and other Works, which he had projected, could be brought to perfection.

He was sufficiently sensible, That, considering, the present State of his Empire was founded, upon the service of his foreign Officers, and a good Naval strength, whereby he might appear formidable in the black Sea, nothing could conduce more towards the promoting and improving so great a Design, than if he should go in person to visit some of the Courts of *Europe*, and especially to make some considerable stay in *Holland*. But, as it was absolutely necessary to appear with a most splendid Equipage and Attendance, befitting the Greatness of so Potent a Prince, if he would be acknowledged in these Parts through which he was to pass for the Grand Czar of *Muscovy*; and as he wisely foresaw that his Rank would not be a great Obstacle to his Design, which was to see and penetrate by degrees in such Matters, as he was desirous to be informed of himself, so he judged it most convenient for his

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preſent Purpoſe, to go in the Quality of a private Gentleman, under the protection of that moſt ſolemn Embaſſy, which he then reſolved to ſend, and has ſince appear'd with ſo much ſplendor in ſeveral Courts of *Europe*.

Purſuant to this Reſolution, he appointed for his Ambaſſadours, My Lord *Le Fort*, General of His Majeſty's Armies, and of the firſt Regiments of his Guards, Admiral of his Fleet, and Viceroy of *Alovogorod*. My Lord *Fedor Alexiovitz Gollanin*, Viceroy of *Siberia*, and My Lord *Procofet Bodgnanovitz Wolnitzin*, Lord high Chancellor of the Empire.

His Majeſty by giving the firſt Rank in this Embaſſy to the General *Le Fort*, gave the moſt ample Demonſtration that could be, in what Eſteem the ſaid General was with him, in conſideration of his paſs'd Great and Signal Services; and to let the World know, what recompences he was ready to beſtow upon all (the Foreigners) that deſerved well of him, ſince from a ſimple Captain, he was mounted in a ſhort time, to the higheſt Dignities in the Empire, notwithſtanding the difference of his Religion.

The ſecond Ambaſſadour, is likewiſe a perſon of Great Wiſdom, and moſt excellent parts, well verſed in publick Negotiations, having been ſent twice by the Czar as his Ambaſſadour Extraordinary into *China*; and it was he that Concluded the laſt Peace betwixt *Muſcovy* and that Em-

Empire. He is in great Esteem with the Grand Czar.

The third Ambassadour has been frequently employed with good Success in those Transactions the *Muscovites* have been engaged in with the *Ottoman Port*.

The Czar, before his departure out of *Muscovy*, found means under a plausible pretext, to send abroad such as lay under the least Suspicion of raising any Disturbances in his Absence. It is to be observed, that for several years before the Czar had sent many of his Subjects, of all Sorts and Qualities, in whom he observed some extraordinary Qualifications, a travelling in foreign Parts at his Charges, the better to instruct themselves in several Arts and Sciences, and to qualifie themselves for the Service of their Country, after their return. He made use of the self-same pretext to rid his hands at this time, of those whom he suspected to be against his Interest, and inclinable to foment any ill Designs against him, in his Absence; For some of them were sent abroad a travelling in far distant Countries, before his departure, the others who lay under more Suspicion than the rest, were ordered to follow the Embassy.

The Administration of the Government during his Majesties Absence, was committed to the Care of the three Princes, *Loff Kerilvitz Alariskin*, *Procorofskoi*, and *Boris Alexiovitz Gallizin*.

The firft is Uncle to His prefent Majefty, being the Brother of the Emprefs *Dowager*, his Mother. He is Chief Minifter of State.

The fecond is the Lord Treafurer of the Empire, a perfon advanced in years, and much efteemed for his great Ability.

The third is his Majefty's Favourite, being likewife Minifter of State, befides many other places, which are of a great yearly Value to him. He is a Nephew of the unfortunate Prince *Waffily Gallizin*, Chief Minifter of State, but fince banifhed into *Siberia*.

His Majefty gave them a moft particular Charge of the Prince his only Son, being then fcarce nine years of Age; This young Prince is of a very vigorous Conftitution, Robuft, Tall, and well Shaped, having a great refemblance, as well in his Face as his Natural difpofition, to the Czar his Father.

General *Gourdon* had orders to Encamp with twenty Thoufand of the beft Troops near the City of *Mufcow*, to keep a watchful eye, and to be in readinefs upon any occafion that fhould offer. This General is a *Scotchman* by Extraction, who entred into the Service of the Czar *Alexis Michaelovitz*, his prefent Czarifh Majefty's Father. He has given eminent Proofs of his Valour and Ability upon feveral Occafions, which has defervedly acquired him the Efteem both of his Czarifh Majefty, and the whole *Mufcovite* Nation,

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notwithſtanding he is a Roman Catholick.

Things being thus diſpoſed, His Majeſty left the City of *Muſcow*, *Incognito*, with his Ambaſſadours, who were attended by a moſt numerous and magnificent Train. They took the way of *Pleſcow*, paſſed through the Frontiers of *Livonia*, *Courland* and *Samegitia*, and ſo arrived ſafely at *Coningsbergh*, the Capital City of the *Ducal Pruſſia*, where they were received with a great deal of Splendor by his Electoral Highneſs of *Brandenburgh.* In this City, his Czáriſh Majeſty receiv'd the Poſt-news, by a Meſſenger ſent for that purpoſe, That the Elector of *Saxony* was elected King of *Poland*; and, that the Cardinal Primat, had proteſted againſt the ſaid Election, under pretext, That the Prince of *Conti* was legally choſen. Upon which, immediate orders were diſpatched to the *Muſcovite* Ambaſſadour, then reſiding in *Poland*, to maintain the Rights of Election made to the Elector of *Saxony*, and to aſſure him, in behalf of his Czariſh Majeſty, That he had ſixty thouſand Men in readineſs, at his Service, in order to maintain his juſt Pretenſions to the Crown of *Poland*; and, That orders were already ſent into *Muſcovy*, for the Troops to advance from *Smolensko*, towards the Frontiers of *Lithuania*, to retain that Great Dutchy in his *Poliſh* Majeſty's Devotion. It is without all queſtion, the fear of ſo Powerful an Aſſiſtance, had

had no ſmall Influence over many of the *Poles*, in the contrary Intereſt; it being moſt evident, that when the Prince of *Conti* appear'd in perſon near *Dantzick*, thoſe of *Pruſſia*, though not averſe to that Prince's Intereſt, durſt not declare for him.

After ſome ſtay at *Coningsbergh*, his Czariſh Majeſty continued his Journey towards *Berlin*, the Ordinary Reſidence of his Electoral Highneſs of *Brandenburgh*, where he was received with all the poſſible demonſtrations of Honour and Eſteem due to a Prince of ſo Eminent a Rank. It is moſt certain, That the Grand Czar was ſo well ſatisfied with his Reception here, and with the Great Qualifications he diſcovered in his preſent Electoral Highneſs, That he has declared ſeveral times ſince, that as ſoon as the yonng Prince his Son ſhould be fit to Travel, he would ſend him to the Court of *Berlin*, to tarry there for ſome conſiderable Time.

No ſooner had their High and Mightineſſes, the States General of the United Provinces received advice, that this ſolemn Embaſſy was on their way towards their Frontiers, but they ſent ſome Deputies, who were to receive their Excellencies in the name of the States General upon the Frontiers; and orders were given not only to defray them at the Charge of the State, but to welcome them with conſiderable Preſents, and by the

the discharge of the great Cannon of all the great Towns through which they passed; their High and Mightinesses being willing upon so extaordinary an Occasion, to eternalize the Memory of the Honour they were going to receive by so solemn an Embassy, the most glorious that ever was seen; in respect of Personal Apppearance of so great a Monarch, with whom they were Engaged in a most strict Tye of Friendship and Commerce. After they had travelled some Leagues in the Territories of the United Provinces, his Czarish Majesty left the Embassy, that he might with the more speed reach the City of *Amsteldam*; and that by travelling thus in Disguise, he might with the more freedom, and unperceived, take a view of every thing he thought worth his Curiosity. Accordingly he came to *Amsteldam*, accompanied only by two or three Gentlemen, so disguised, as not to be known by any body, where he lodged, at a Common-Inn for one night only; The next day he went to *Sordam*, a large Town on the opposite side of the River of *Amsteldam*, and about two Leagues distant, this place being most famous for the great number of Ship-Wrights and others, who are there employed continually in building of Ships.

His Majesty immediately after his arrival there, took up with a private lodgings at a *Burgher's* House, which lay much out of the way, his aim being to keep himself

ſelf from being diſcovered, as much as poſſible could be. His Chief and firſt employment in this place, was to inform himſelf in perſon from the Work-mens own Mouths, and to be an Eye-witneſs in what manner they built their Ships; He bought a ſmall Yacht of about twenty five or thirty Foot long, which he took a particular Pleaſure to ſteer himſelf, and to Sail in the Company only of thoſe three Gentlemen, that attended him up and down the River of *Amſteldam* (called the *Tey)* where his greateſt delight was, to make his own Obſervations, and to feed his eyes with that moſt beautiful Proſpect of that vaſt number of Ships, which not unlike a Forreſt, lie cloſe together in the Road of that City.

But it was not many days before he was robbed of the Satisfaction of paſſing away his time thus undiſcovered. For a certain Lock-Smith, who had lived a few years before in the City of *Muſcow*, happening to take particular Notice of him one day, as he paſſed by, knew him firſt; and having told ſome of his Comrades, the inhabitants flock'd in ſuch Numbers about him, when he appear'd abroad, that being tired with the Crowd, he reſolved to leave *Sordam*, ſooner than he intended at firſt.

This News being come to the Ears of the Merchants of *Amſteldam*, Trading to *Muſcovy*, ſome of whom had the Honour

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to know His Majesty, they immediately went in a Body to pay him all imaginable Respect, and to pray him to honour them with his Presence in the City of *Amsteldam*; where he arrived from *Sordam* some days before the Ambassadours, who had received Orders to tarry for some time there, before they went to the *Hague*, in order to be Admitted to the publick Audience of Their High and Mightinesses.

In the mean while the Magistrates of *Amsteldam* took effectual Care to provide every thing for the Magnificent Reception of the said Embassy, great store of Cannon being planted upon the Bastions, facing the River *Amstell*, which way the Ambassadours were to come. All the young Men of the City mounted on Horseback, with very splendid Equipages and those of the best Rank and Quality, went to meet him in their Coaches. The Magistrates deputed some of their Members to Compliment Their Excellencies at their Landing, which was about a quarter of a League without the City, whither they were conducted in the Yatchs of the State, and received with a Discharge of all the Cannon round the Ramparts.

The three Ambassadours were conducted by the Deputies into the Coach of one of the Chief Magistrates of the City; the Deputies took their Places in the second, and the rest of the Coaches were taken up by the Gentlemen of the Embassy, among whom, as it was reported, was His Czar-

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iſh Majeſty. But firſt of all, rid the beforementioned Gentlemen on Horſeback, who leading the Van, were followed by the Trumpets of the State, and theſe by ſome *Tartars*, Armed with Bows, and ſome *Muſcovites* on Horſeback. After theſe marched on foot twenty Pages belonging to Their Excellencies the Ambaſſadours, very richly Clad, their Coats being of Scarlet Cloth, covered all over with very rich Gold and Silver Galloons. Theſe went immediately before the Coach, wherein ſat the three Ambaſſadours, Guarded on each ſide by twelve Tall and luſty Fellows, Cloath'd in a *Slavonian* Dreſs, carrying each a Silver Ax in their hands, and Cimmetars with Silver Hilts on their Sides. They had red Cloaks over their *Caſſacques*, trimm'd on both ſides with large Silver Buttons, and large Plated Loops; all which together, made a very Glorious and Magnificent Show. Theſe Coaches were followed by a great many Footmen, likewiſe clad in red Scarlet Cloath, trimmed with Silver Galloons. His Excellency the General *Le Fort*, appeared that day in an *Europian* Habit, and the other two Ambaſſadours, in a *Muſcovite* Dreſs, but their Apparel was extreamly Rich. Thus they paſſed in very good order through the Chiefeſt Streets of *Amſteldam*, to the Lodgings prepared for them, where ſtood a Company of City Trained-bands in Arms, to render their Reception the more Magnificent; All the Streets through which

they passed, were crowded with an infinite number of People, who were flock'd to the City to be Spectators of the most solemn Entrance that had been seen there for many years before; and for several days after, their Excellencies were treated with all the magnificence imaginable, at the Charge of the City of *Amsteldam*; all which, though it amounted to a considerable Summ, nevertheless the Magistrates being willing upon this Occasion to give the most ample Demonstrations that possible could be, of their Esteem and Respect for His Czarish Majesty's person, caused a great Fire-Work to be prepared, representing a Triumphal-Arch, in Honour of his Majesty.

It was erected upon the River *Amstel* (which had communicated its Name to the Famous City of *Amsteldam*) in a place where it might be seen at a great distance, being of great height, and having four Fronts alike to the four principal Corners of the World; the whole Fabrick being of the *Corinthian Order*, adorned with the Arms of His Czarish Majesty, with Tritons, Vessels, and many other Embellishments. The whole Machine was built upon many Flat-bottom'd Vessels, join'd close together, which being covered all over with a Linnen Painted Cloth, the bottom upon which the Fabrick was founded, represented at a distance, a small Island.

This Fire-work being too remote from their Excellencies Lodgings, to be seen there

there in its full Perfection, the Magiftrates intreated them to go with them to a noted Tavern of *Amfteldam*, called the *Doclan*, where they had the advantage of being Spectators of the Succefs of the Fire-works, to their entire Satisfaction, and were regaled with a moft magnificent Collation. His Majefty being gracioufly pleafed to appear in perfon at this Feaft; it was then the firft time, that I had the opportunity of taking a full view of him, as well as others, at leifure. He is a very Tall and Lufty Perfon, Well fet, with very good Features in his Face, and, though there is a great deal Vivacity in his Eyes, (which are Black and Sprightly) as well as Activity in his whole Air, he has certain Marks of a Sweet Difpofition in his Phyfiognomy. He is very affable in Converfation, giving frequent opportunities to be entertained with any thing that is Curious.

Some Hours after it was Dark, the Fire-works began to Play, with extraordinary Succefs, to the Admiration of all the Spectators in General, and His Czarifh Majefty in partiulcar, who could not fufficiently fpeak praife in of it, and declare publickly the Satisfaction he had taken in the whole Entertainment. The Concourfe of People was fo great at this publick Rejoycing, that by the Throng, fome of the Iron Rails of the Bridge of the *Amftel* being broke down, a great many of thofe upon the Bridge, fell in-

to the River, ſome of whom were drowned, the reſt narrowly eſcaping with Life, by the help of ſome Boats that were near at hand.

But the Deputies of the Admiralty of *Amſteldam*, being ſenſible that they could give no greater ſatisfaction to the *Czar*, than in what related to the knowledge of Naval Affairs, took effectual care to ſhew his Majeſty all their Store-Houſes, belonging to the Building and Equipping of their Men of War.

I have it from good Hands, that theſe Gentlemen who were deputed to attend him thither, were extreamly ſurpriſed to ſee him with ſo much eagerneſs enquire after every thing, that had the leaſt relation to theſe Affairs, and with how much Skill and Judgment he would talk and argue concerning theſe Matters, into which (as they were perſwaded before) he had but a ſlender Inſight.

Some Days after, his Majeſty took a Progreſs to *Utrecht*, where he had an Interview with his *Britanick* Majeſty; this being the firſt time theſe two Great Princes, Eminent for their Virtue and Bravery, met. They Diſcourſed for ſeveral Hours together, and parted from one another with all the marks of a mutual high Eſteem.

The Ambaſſadors ſtay'd near two Months at *Amſteldam*, before they went to the *Hague*, in order to their Audience: For his *Czariſh* Majeſty being reſolv'd that they ſhould make their Appearance there with all

all the Splendor imaginable, Order'd that the Number of their Domeſticks ſhould be conſiderably augmented, that they ſhould be all new Cloathed, and Richer than before. They had alſo an addition to their Equipage three of the richeſt Coaches that could be made, with ſo many Sets of very fine Horſes.

Every thing being got ready for their Departure to the *Hague*, they ſet out on their Journey, carrying along with them good ſtore of Sables and other rich Furs, to be Preſented to their High and Mightineſſes from the *Czar* their Maſter, purſuant to the Cuſtom of moſt Eaſtern Nations.

Their Excellencies were receiv'd at the *Hague*, with all the marks of Honour and Reſpect due to their High Character, and the Day for their publick Audience being appointed, his *Czariſh* Majeſty followed in Perſon in Diſguiſe, wearing a plain blew Coat, a large white Perriwig, and white Feather; and being perfectly well acquainted both with the Perſon, and extraordinary Merits of the Sieur *Witſen* (who is this Year Burgo-Maſter of *Amſteldam*) he borrowed his Coach, and deſired him to accompany him thither, which was performed with ſo much dexterity and ſecrecy by the ſaid Sieur *de Witſen*, that his Majeſty was not diſcover'd by any body living.

It was in the Month of *September* of the last Year, when there was the greatest show of Forreign Ambassadors, that ever was seen at the *Hague*, occasion'd by the Negotiation of Peace at *Reswick*, whither most Courts of *Europe* had sent their Plenipotentiaries, who all striving to outview one another in Magnificence, it was no easie matter to add any thing to the Splendor of their Equipages: Yet his *Czarish* Majesty being sensible that the Eyes of the World, would in a most peculiar manner be fixed upon his Embassy; and being invited by a most commendable Emulation; to maintain upon this, as well as all other occasions the Glory and Lustre of his Eminent Station in the World, as claiming the Title of an Emperor, and bearing the Imperial Arms, he was fully resolv'd that this most Solemn Embassy, honour'd by his Presence, should bear the marks of, and be answerable to his Grandeur.

In effect, according to the Testimony of all that were Spectators of this Solemn Audience, every thing was manag'd with so much Order, Majesty and Gravity, and with so much Magnificence, that nothing could be added to the Lustre of this Solemnity, which in all Respects was suitable to his Majesty's Design and Grandeur.

It is confess'd by all hands, that never any Ambassador appear'd in a more Splendid Attire, than the General *le Fort*, the first Ambassador did that Day; he was Clad after the *Muscovite* Fashion, in a long

Robe

Robe of Cloth of Gold, Lin'd with the moft precious Sables that ever were feen. This Robe, as well as the Veft which he wore under it, was cover'd before with Diamonds of an ineftimable Value, and upon his Bonnet there appear'd a large Jewel of Diamonds in the fhape of a Herns Feather, with fuch luftre as dazled the Eyes of the Beholders: He harangued their High and Mightineffes in the *Ruffian* Tongue, with an Air altogether Majeftick, fuitable to the Character he bore upon fo Solemn an Occafion. The two other Ambaffadors, who appear'd likewife in very Rich Apparel, made alfo their Compliments to their High and Mightineffes with a Majeftick Gravity: But that which added the greateft Luftre to this Audience, was, that all the Ambaffadors of moft Princes in *Europe*, honour'd thefe Men with their Prefence, and his *Czarifh* Majefty had the fatisfaction to be an Eye Witnefs of all what paffed, from a Clofet which had a Window opening into the Audience Room, without being perceived by any body, and returned the next day privately to *Amfteldam*, extreamly well pleafed with his Journey. Neither did their Excellencies make any long ftay at the *Hague*, they having no other Matters to propofe to the States, but the confirmation of former Treaties.

It is agreed on all hands, that the principal Motive of this *Embaffy* was, that under the fpecious Pretence of this Publick Solemnity, the *Czar* might with the more

conveniency pass *Incognito*, through such Places as he intended to visit; his particular aim in respect to his Journey into *Holland*, being to have the opportunity of being undiscover'd at *Amsteldam*, to take, with the more conveniency a full view of such Matters as related to Maritime Affairs, and without any disturbance, to take People fit for the Sea-Service into his Pay, and at the same time to supply himself with such Necessaries, as was requisite for the carrying on his Grand Design.

This sufficiently appear'd after his return from the *Hague*, by his Request to the Magistrates of *Amsteldam*, to wit, to chuse private Lodgings for himself, and a few Gentlemen of his Retinue at one end of the City. It must be confess'd the Lodgings were but very indifferent, in respect of the Quality of the Person that was to Inhabit them; but in regard of their Situation, they were in all Points agreeable to his Majesty's Intention, they being just adjoyning to the *East-India* House, which lying near a convenient Road for Ships, there was the most agreeable prospect that could be to the Water-side, of all what passed to or from *Amsteldam*.

No sooner had his Majesty taken possession of these small Lodgings, but he applied all his Thoughts to the knowledge of two Things: The first was to be Instructed in all Particulars, which had any relation to the Building and Equipping of Ships: The second, to learn the manner of Bombarding

barding Places by Sea, which being a thing he was deſirous to be inform'd of, he ſpar'd no pains to attain to. But as his Genius was always bent to the Mathematicks, and as he had been Inſtructed moſt particularly in the Mechanick part of it, which contains the Fundamental Principles of both: It was yet long before he made himſelf Maſter of theſe Myſterious Arts; eſpecially, ſince his deſire was ſuch, as not to reſt ſatisfy'd with being a looker on, but would lay himſelf a hand to the Work ſometimes, with a great deal of Pleaſure, and finiſh a piece with his own Hands, which he did with ſo much dexterity, that one would have ſwore he had been accuſtomed long ago, to handle the Axe and the Hammer. I have my ſelf ſeen two pieces of his own Handy-Work; one was a ſmall Frigat of three or four Foot long, the other a little Wind-Mill.

What elſe can be gathered from all this, but that his Conduct in relation to theſe Matters, is founded upon moſt profound Reaſons of State? It ſeems evident to me, that the ſole motive of it, is the Glory and Greatneſs of the *Ruſſian* Monarchy; and that by the eagerneſs he ſhews upon this occaſion, of advancing the Naval Strength of his Empire, he intends to give the moſt evident demonſtratons he is able, (to his Nobility and People) that on its due Eſtabliſhment, depends the chief Welfare of the Realm; and that by diveſting himſelf thus of his Royal Dignity for a time,

and

and applying himſelf in Perſon to the Building of Ships, he intends to ſerve for an Example to invite them to follow his Footſteps. He is too ſenſible that the *Muſcovites* are naturally inclin'd to Pride and Lazineſs, and he look'd upon it as the beſt means to correct thoſe Vices in them, and hinder their further progreſs among them, if he by his own Example did encourage them to Labour and Induſtry.

At his ſpare Hours, his greateſt delight uſed to be, to take a view of any thing that was curious, or worth his obſervation in private Perſons Houſes, where he lay'd hold of all opportunities, to enter into a familiar Diſcourſe with them, in ſo obliging a manner, that the *Hollanders*, who are extreamly taken with familiar Converſation, were charm'd with his franck Behaviour; which had this effect upon them, that it is almoſt incredible, how many voluntarily offer'd themſelves to ſerve him; I having been an Eye-witneſs my ſelf, that a great number of able and well deſerving Perſons could not be admitted into the Service, becauſe the intended Levies were compleated in much leſs time than was expected.

Not long after the Ambaſſadors return from the *Hague*, his Majeſty receiv'd an Expreſs from *Muſcovy*, with the agreeable News of a Battle, fought betwixt the *Muſcovites*, under the Command of the Prince *Schein*, and the *Tartars* near *Aſoph*. The *Cham* of the *Crim Tartary*, had in the beginning of the Spring, cauſed a great number

ber of *Crim Tartars* to paſs in many ſmall Bodies, and at different times thro' *Caffa*, in order to join them with the *Tartars* of *Circaſſia* ; and eſpecially thoſe Inhabiting near the River *Cubance*. Knowing that the *Muſcovite* Army was divided into ſeveral Bodies, the better to cover the Workmen, that were employed in ſeveral Places, in compleating the before-mentioned Fortifications, he look'd upon this as a fit opportunity to ſurpriſe them unawares: For which purpoſe, he order'd the *Tartars* Commanded by *Sultan Galga*, to advance with great and ſpeedy Marches toward the Enemy. But the *Muſcovite* General *Schein*, having receiv'd Intelligence of their approach, had juſt ſo much leiſure given him, as to draw together his Troops in an advantageous place, where he reſolv'd to engage the Enemy. Theſe perceiving themſelves ſuperiour in number to the *Muſcovites*, and being encourag'd by that pretended fear of the *Muſcovite* Army, which did not move from their Poſt, fell with great fury upon them, and were received with great bravery by the *Ruſſians*, who were contented to defend themſelves in their Poſt, till their General perceiving the firſt heat of the *Tartars* ſpent, attack'd them very briskly, put them firſt into Confuſion, and ſoon after to the Rout, with a great Slaughter on the Enemies ſide, whom they purſued to the River *Hagalinek*, where many of them were drowned. This River runs through *Circaſſia*, about two Leagues

diſtant

distant from *Asoph*. Our Maps put this River to the North on the other side of the River *Don*, above thirty Leagues from *Asoph*

Their Excellencies the *Muscovite* Ambassadors made publick Rejoycings upon this Occasion, and invited the Magistrates and other Persons of Quality to a Magnificent Entertainment, where they were diverted with Dancing, Musick, Fireworks, and all sorts of other Divertisements. His *Czarish* Majesty was pleas'd to appear there in Person, and in so pleasant a Humour, that all the Guess were extreamly satisfy'd with his Goodness, and at parting, made all the most sincere Protestations to his Majesty, that they should keep in everlasting Remembrance, the extraordinary Favour he had been pleas'd to bestow upon them, in honouring them with his Presence.

Towards the beginning of the Winter, this Victory was Seconded by the News of another Advantage, obtain'd near the River *Borysthenes*. For the *Crim Tartars* in conjunction with those of *Budziack* and *Oczakow* having besieged *Kasikermeen*, had carried on their Trenches to the very Counterscarp, and at the same time made themselves Masters of the Adjacent small Isle of *Towam*. But a Body of *Muscovites* having joined the *Cossacks* inhabiting those Frontiers, came time enough to the relief of the Place, forcing the *Tartars* to abandon the Siege and the Isle, with a considerable loss on their side. Upon which his Majesty gave

gave Orders, that the ſaid Iſland ſhould be ſtrengthned by ſome regular Fortifications.

The ſame Expreſs brought likewiſe the News, that the new Harbour about ſeven Leagues from *Aſoph*, (of which mention has been made before) was brought to perfection, the Place being already Inhabited by Ten Thouſand *Muſcovites*, his Majeſty having expreſly forbidden any Forreign Nation to ſettle there. He gave the Name of *Setruchina Tuba* to this City. In a little time after, Advice was alſo brought his Majeſty, that a great number of the *Circaſſian Tartars* had voluntarily ſubmitted to his Obedience; and thereupon being joined by ſome *Muſcovite* Troops, they had extended their Conqueſts into the *Crim Tartary*, to the River *Mious*, about five and twenty Leagues diſtant from *Aſoph*, where the *Turks* formerly uſed to unload their Ships bound to that Place; and that the *Muſcovites* were then buſie in building a ſtrong Fort near the Mouth of that River, thereby to make themſelves Maſters of, and to command that Road.

The *Czar* having now taken a reſolution to paſs over into *England*, before his departure out of this Country, gave notice of his Intention to his *Britanick* Majeſty, who immediately ſent ſome Yachts and light Friggots to conduct him thither. He Embark'd with an Attendance only of Twelve or Fifteen Perſons, ordering his Ambaſſadors to ſtay behind at *Amſteldam*,

and

and to buy up good ſtore of Artillery and Ammunition: And being happily arriv'd in *England*, he was received there with all the Honour and Reſpect due to ſo Great a Prince; His *Britanick* Majeſty offering him for his Reſidence the Royal Palace, call'd *Sommerſet-Houſe*, (which is very Remarkable for its pleaſant Scituation on the River *Thames*,) and a Guard to attend his Perſon; but the *Czar* perſiſting in his Reſolution to paſs his time in *England*, Incognito, he refuſed to accept of the King of *England*'s Offers.

After he had received the Compliments from his Majeſty and the Royal Family, and return'd the ſame to them, he ſpent ſome time in taking a view of the Two Houſes of Parliament, and what elſe was worth his Obſervation at Court; and then retir'd at ſome diſtance from the City of *London*, for the conveniency of the Proſpect upon the River, from whence he might obſerve the Workmen, that were Employed thereabouts in the building of Ships. He ſtay'd above Two Months in *England*, during which time, he Employ'd moſt of his ſpare Hours, in viewing all what was Curious or Remarkable, eſpecially among the beſt Artiſts.

Some *London* Merchants having propoſed to his *Czariſh* Majeſty, the Eſtabliſhment of a new Commerce of *Tobacco*, to be Tranſported only by them into *Muſcovy*, and the other Countries under his Majeſty's Obedience, he ſent for *Fedor Alexiovitz Gallavin*,

Gallavin, his Second Ambassador, to Treat with them concerning this Point at *London*. The Treaty was brought to a good issue, to the satisfaction of both Parties; and it has been computed, that the *Czar's* Yearly Customs arising from that Commodity, will amount to above a Million of *Livres*.

But what is worth our particular Observation in this Voyage into *England*, and which most of all discovers the main Design of his *Czarish* Majesty, is, his Progress to *Portsmouth*, to be a Spectator of a Sea Engagement betwixt two *English* Squadrons, near that Port. I had forgot to tell you before, that the *Hollanders* did Entertain him near *Amsterdam*, with such another Mock-fight, where a great many Yachts were drawn up in different Lines, to shew to his *Czarish* Majesty the manner of Engaging one another, and Retiring after an Engagement at Sea.

His *Czarish* Majesty having been presented by the King of *England*, with a very fine Yatch, Richly Guilt, carrying Thirty Pieces of Cannon, and one of the nimblest for Sailing in the whole Kingdom; he sent her to *Archangle*, and he himself return'd, notwithstanding the badness of the Season into, *Holland*.

In the mean while that their Excellencies were gone back to the *Hague*, in Order to take their Audience of Leave from their High and Mightinesses, the Magistrates of *Amsterdam*, being sensible, that immediately after their Return, the *Czar* would set for-

ward

forward on his Journey to *Vienna*, made great preparations to ſignalize their Zeal for his Majeſty by ſome freſh marks of Honour: But he no ſooner had notice of their Deſign, but he ſent to deſire them to deſiſt, being willing to leave their City without noiſe, and undiſcover'd, after a Thouſand Teſtimonies of their Eſteem and Friendſhip to his Perſon, received both from the Magiſtrates and other Inhabitants, during the Six Months he had ſtay'd among them.

He was juſt upon his departure, when he was ſurpriſed by the unwelcome News, that there had been a Mutiny near the City of *Muſcow*, among ſome Remainders of the *Strelitzes*, but that General *Gourdon* had ſoon diſperſed them, and taken moſt of their Ringleaders Priſoners; who as they have thereby haſten'd the entire Ruine of their Party, ſo they have brought themſelves to a miſerable End, having received ſince that time the due Rewards of their Treachery. For a great Number of them were Hang'd on Gibbets, and many of the Nobility had their Heads cut off.

You cannot be ignorant of what has paſſed ſince his *Czariſh* Majeſty's Departure out of *Holland*; with what Honour and Reſpect this Great Prince was received at the Imperial Court of *Vienna*; with what extraordinary Splendour and Magnificence his Embaſſy appear'd there; as likewiſe, what obliged his Majeſty to return on a ſudden into *Muſcovy*. It is alſo ſufficiently

ly known to you, that he left *Procofet Bogdanovitz Wolnizin*, as his Ambaſſadour and Plenipotentiary for the Negotiation of Peace to be ſet on foot upon the Frontiers of *Hungary*, betwixt the Confederate Princes and the *Ottoman* Port.

His Majeſty took the way of *Poland* in his Return homewards, where he had an Interview, not far from *Lembergh*, with his preſent *Poliſh* Majeſty, who aſſured him, That he was reſolved to continue the War againſt the *Turks*, unleſs Peace might be obtained upon very good Conditions, and eſpecially by the Surrender of *Caminieck* to the *Poles*.

But whatever the iſſue of this Treaty may be, you will eaſily grant me, if you will be pleaſed to reflect ſeriouſly upon what I have told you before, That, ſuppoſing the Czar of *Muſcovy* ſhould not be comprehended in the ſaid Peace, he is alone capable of waging War againſt the *Turks*, and not without hopes of Succeſs on his ſide. For his Frontiers being ſo well provided and ſtrengthned with good Fortifications on that ſide where the *Turks* muſt attack him; he has no more to do, than to be upon the Defenſive by Land, and in the mean while to attack them briskly at Sea. And it is more than probable, That this is the Grand Deſign of this Prince, who ſeems to have taken ſuch ſure Meaſures in reſpect to the Eſtabliſhment of his Maritime Affairs, that there is all the Reaſon in the World to

F be-

believe, that he will always Triumph over the *Turks* at Sea, who never did any thing Memorable in that Service ; and who according to all outward Appearance, are leſs in a Condition than ever to ſignalize themſelves upon the Watery Element at a time, when their Empire appears in a declining State.

I will leave it to your own Judgment, whether it would not ſhake the very Foundation of the *Turkiſh* Monarchy, conſidering its preſent tottering Condition, if the *Muſcovites* ſhould chaſe the *Turks* out of the *Black-Sea*, and make themſelves Maſters of their Ports on theſe Coaſts, which from the City of *Caffa*, as far as to the mouth of the *Boryſthenes*, muſt thereby be expoſed to the Mercy of the *Muſcovites* ? And it is not improbable that *Conſtantinople* it ſelf might be hardly put to it, or at leaſt run the Hazzard of being laid in Aſhes by a Bombardment. What would in ſuch a caſe, become of the *Crim-Tartary*, which being already encloſed on all ſides by a good number of ſtrong Forteſſes, muſt of neceſſity fall, without making one Blow, into the hands of the *Muſcovites*, if all Commerce and Correſpondence betwixt the *Peninſula* and *Conſtantinople* ſhould be cut off, by the *Muſcovites* becoming Maſters of the *Black-Sea* ?

Beſides,

Befides, it is to be confidered, that as Places are attack'd now a-days, they have only *Precop* and *Caffa*, which are in a Condition to make fome flender Defence.

But, Sir, being unwilling to tire your Patience with too long a Letter, I will come to a Conclufion; I muft only repeat to you once more, what I have intimated before, That it was the greateft Over-fight the *Turks* could be guilty of, not to take all the imaginable Precautions againft the *Mufcovites* becoming Mafters of *Afoph*, who thereby have opened themfelves the way into the *Black-Sea*, over which the *Ottoman* Empire always claim'd the Sovereignty in a moft peculiar manner. To make fome Amends for fo unpardonable an Error, the moft likely means they have left, feems to be, to conclude an everlafting Peace with the *Mufcovites*, thereby to lull them afleep, that they may not lay hold of this Opportunity of rendring themfelves redoubtable in the *Black-Sea*.

The *Ottoman* Port might thus reap a confiderable Advantage by the Commerce with *Mufcovy*, by eftablifhing certain Duties to be paid for the paffage of Ships through the Channel leading to *Conftantinople*, in the fame manner as it is practifed in *Denmark*, where the King of that Name, receives Cuftoms of the Ships that pafs, and repafs the *Sound*, in their going to, and coming from the *Baltick*.

This appears to me the only most probable Means, to plunge them out of that Misfortune which they have drawn upon themselves by their own Neglect, it being allow'd by all that have any insight into the present State of Affairs in *Muscovy*, That the present Czar *Peter Alexiovitz*, has taken a firm Resolution, not to rest satisfied, till he has opened this Passage in order to establish a free Commerce with foreign Nations, and to encourage them to come into his Ports near the *Palus Meotis*.

This, Sir, is the present Condition of the *Russian* Empire, which was formerly look'd upon as most barbarous, but which now bids fair for the Priority with any in *Europe*, by reason of the Encrease of its Commerce with most Nations of the World, by the indefatigable Vigilancy of their present Monarch, who being scarce 28 Years of Age; what is it that may not be expected from so Great a Prince, if God pleases to bless him with a long Life?

For the *Wolga* is above five hundred Leagues (to reckon from its first Spring) to the Canal, by which it is join'd with the River *Don*, and this River from thence to the City of *Asoph*, four hundred Leagues more, fit for Ships of good Burthen, and from the Canal of Communication betwixt these two noble Rivers, there is two hundred Leagues distance to *Asoph* upon a straight Line, all extream good Grounds,

Grounds; *Aſoph* and *Aſtracan* being ſituate under the moſt happy Climate in the World. The Weſtern ſide of the River *Wolga* is very well inhabited already, and there is no great queſtion, but that the Conveniency of Commerce, and Plenty of the Country, will ſoon invite ſome of the Neighbouring vagabond *Tartars* to follow the footſteps of other more civiliz'd Nations, when once they are made ſenſible of the Benefit of an Induſtrious and ſettled Life. This is ſufficiently verified by the Example of many of the *Aſiatick Tartars*, who have by degrees abandoned their vagabond and idle Life, and follow'd their Prince into *China*, where they are become Wealthy by their Traffick; the like may be ſaid of many of the *Crim-Tartars*, thoſe of *Aſtracan*, *Siberia*, *Dauria*, and other parts ſubject to the *Muſcovites*.

If we caſt our eyes upon that Part of *Muſcovy*, whereabouts the Port of *Arch-Angel* is, and conſider, that not above an Age ago theſe Patts were as little inhabited as any of *Muſcovy*, being low Grounds, and ſituate under a very cold Climate; But ſince the Eſtabliſhment of Commerce in this Harbour, the Country all thereabouts is very well ſtock'd with Inhabitants, and many goodly Towns and Villages.

In the Southern Parts of *Muſcovy*, the Cities of *Wologda*, *Jereſla*, *Roſtof*, *Pereſlaw*, and others owe all their Encreaſe of

Wealth to traffick. Add to this the advantage of Commerce betwixt the *Indies*, *Persia* and *Muscovy*, by the way of the *Caspian* Lake or Sea; all which Commodities may for the future be transported by the newly projected Canal betwixt the two Rivers *Wolga* and *Don*, into all Parts of *Europe*; what immense Profit and Riches must not by this means be conveyed into *Muscovy*! which being already so considerable for its vast Extent and Advantageous Situation for Trade, may in all probability thereby become the most Potent and Redoubtable in the World, *&c.*

Amsteldam, 30th *October*, 1698.

I am,





A LETTER

FROM

A Perſon of Quality, Reſiding at the Imperial Court of

VIENNA,

To his Friend in

LONDON,

Concerning the late Solemn

Muſcovite Embaſſy;

AND SOME

Other Matters Relating to His Preſent

CZARISH MAJESTY;

THE

Ruſſian Empire, and the *Great*

TARTARY.

LONDON, Printed for *F. Coggan*, in the *Inner-Temple-Lane*. MDDXCIX.

A

LETTER

FROM

A Perſon of Quality, Reſiding at

VIENNA,

Concerning

The preſent CONDITION

OF THE

Muſcovite EMPIRE.

AS the late Journey of the preſent Czar *Peter Alexiovitz*, has been for ſome time paſt, the Surprize of all *Europe*; ſo I thought I could not make you a more Seaſonable Return at this time, for the Obligation you were pleaſed to lay upon me ſome Months ago, in communicating to me your Obſervations concerning His *Czariſh* Majeſty's Stay

in

in *England* and *Holland*, than to inform you of what has past since his coming into this Court, and his Return into *Muscovy*; of which I have been partly an eye-witness, the rest I stand indebted for the Correspondence of my Friends, upon whose Integrity and Judgment, I can fully rely.

I will not pretend to insist upon the Motives which induced the Czar to Engage in so Extraordinary an Undertaking, it being agreed on all hands, that as his Design was to build the Frame of the present *Russian* Monarchy upon a much more solid Foundation, than it was in former times, so he judged nothing could more conduce to obtain this Great End, than if he should take this Opportunity, of being inform'd in Person concerning these Maxims, which have rendred some of the *European* States, so flourishing in our Age.

For, whereas the *Russian* Monarchs used to make the Ignorance of their Subjects the Main Foundation-stone of their Authority; so it is obvious to every unbyassed Person, that his present Majesty looks upon the Improvements of all Arts and Sciences, and the Establishment of a regular Discipline, as the Main Pillars of the Greatness of this Monarchy.

It was in the Profecution of this Grand Design he appear'd, though *Incognito*, in *England* and *Holland*; and after having satisfy'd himself in those Matters which were

were the Chief Subject of his Curioſity, he reſolved to viſit likewiſe the Imperial Court of *Vienna,* where he arrived with the *Muſcovite* Embaſſy, towards the latter end of *June* laſt paſt.

He had ſcarce been a few days in this City, when he received Letters from *Aſoph,* That part of that Garriſon, to the Number of betwixt ſeven and eight Thouſand Men, having receiv'd Intelligence, That the *Tartars* had put a great Number of their beſt Horſes in the circumjacent Paſtures, under the Guard of three thouſand Men, were marched out againſt them, had defeated the Guard, and brought near thirty thouſand Horſes into *Aſoph.*

Theſe Letters were in a few days after follow'd by an Expreſs from *Muſcovy,* with an Account, That the Remainders of the antient *Muſcovite* Guards (whom they call *Strelitzes*) had Mutiny'd, under Pretence of Want of Pay; and that being join'd by ſome others, were marched towards *Muſcow,* the Capital City of the whole Empire, with an Intention to Surprize and Ranſack the Place. The *Strelitzes,* who formerly might be compared to the Janiſaries of the *Turks,* had given ſuch frequent proofs of their Barbarity and Cruelty againſt the Inhabitants of this City, upon ſuch like Occaſions, that many of them being terrified by ſo unexpected a Revolt in the Czar's Abſence, left their Habitations, and a general

ral Consternation had seised the whole Empire, as dreading the Effects of the Fury of these Insolent Soldiers.

The Princes *Loff Kerilvitz*, *Nariskin Procorofskoi*, and *Boris Alexiovitz Gallizin*, who had the Supream Administration of the Government during the Czar's Absence, were not wanting in their Duty, to encourage the Inhabitants both by Words, and their own Example; and that nothing might be wanting on their side, to reduce this rebellious Crew to their Duty, sent some of the Nobility, back'd by a good number of Troops, to endeavour to appease their Fury; but they were so far from hearkning to the Propositions offered them by the Deputies of the Governours, that they fired at them, and forced them to retire to the City:

Thus all fair means proving ineffectual, General *Gourdon* was sent out with a good Body of faithful Troops, Commanded for the most part by foreign Officers, who meeting with the Rebels, as they were advanced within four Leagues of *Muscow*, Attack'd, and totally Routed them, killing many of them upon the Spot, and carry the rest Prisoners to the City, where many of them receiv'd afterwards the due Reward of their Treachery.

The Czar being over-joyed at the Success of his Arms against these Mutineers, resolved not only to stay for some time at this Court, but also to continue his Journey from hence to *Venice*, before his

Return into *Muſcovy.* I have hinted to you before, the Chief Motive which induced His *Czariſh* Majeſty to undertake ſo long and dangerous a Journey; but beſides this, there may be alledged another, having a peculiar Reſpect to the Imperial Court. For the *Muſcovites*, having by the Conqueſt of *Aſoph*, opened themſelves a Gate into the *Palus Meotis*, and conſequently into the *Black-Sea*, had all the Reaſon in the World to promiſe themſelves the entire Conqueſt of the *Crim-Tartary*, and the *Tartarian Peninſula* it ſelf, if the War ſhould be carried on but for two years longer by the Confederates againſt the Infidels, there being nothing but the Cities of *Precop*, *Crim* and *Caffa*, places of no great Strength, which could make any conſiderable Reſiſtance, and prevent them from making themſelves Maſters of all the Coaſt from *Aſoph*, to the mouth of the River *Boryſthenes*, where they had already got firm footing, by the Conqueſt of the Fortreſs of *Kaſikermeen*, in the Year 1695, and the Submiſſion of many of the *Coſſacks* upon the Frontiers, to the Czar's Obedience. His *Czariſh* Majeſty, who from the beginning of his War with the *Turks*, had had no leſs in view than the reducing of theſe Places, and making himſelf Maſter of the *Black-Sea*, had, before his departure out of *Muſcovy*, made all the neceſſary Preparations for the promoting of ſo Great a Deſign. He had not only ſtrengthned the

City

City of *Asoph* by some new Fortifications, and erected a strong Fortress at some small distance from thence, but had caused a new Port to be made for the Conveniency of his Navy. This Great Prince, who perfectly understands the advantageous Situations of his Dominions for Commerce, (one of the Main Pillars of the Prosperity of the Commonwealth,) has, ever since his Accession to the Throne, left no stone unturn'd, to improve it to the utmost Advantage.

It is to the *Muscovites*, *Europe* stands indebted for the Discovery of the Way by Land into *China*; and by the frequent Embassy sent by the present Czar into that Country, the Way through the *Great-Tartary* is as well or better known to the *Russians*, than some Provinces of their own Empire. Several goodly Cities and Villages have been built for the Conveniency of the *Muscovite* Carevans, and a vast Tract of Ground has been incorporated with the *Russian* Empire.

It is incredible of what Consequences the *China* Trade by Land, is to the *Muscovites*, who by the Help of their Sleds drawn by *Renes* in the Winter-time, perform this great Journey with much Expedition. Many of the Vagabond *Tartars*, incited by the Industry of the *Muscovite* Merchants trading in these parts, have quitted their Solitudes, and have settled themselves in *Siberia*, and some other Provinces of *Muscovy*, which were scarce inhabited

habited within theſe hundred years. The Communication betwixt *Muſcovy* and ſome part of the *Indies*, as well as the *Perſian* Empire, by help of the *Caſpian Sea*, as it is obvious to every body that will but caſt an Eye upon the Maps, ſo it is no leſs advantageous to the *Ruſſians* than the *China* Trade. The *Banajans* (the moſt Trading People of all the *Indies*) have a very conſiderable Settlement in the City of *Aſtracan* (the Boundary of *Europe* and *Aſia* on that ſide) from whence they furniſh *Muſcovy* with all the moſt precious Things the *Indies* afford, and by the continual paſſage of Merchants and others, trading from the City of *Muſcow* to *Aſtracan*, and other places upon the *Wolga*, the Country betwixt the *Ocea* and *Wolga* is better ſtor'd with Villages and Inhabitants, than many of the moſt Fertile Provinces of *Europe*.

The *Czar Peter Alexiovitz* was as well before, as in his late Journey, ſufficiently convinced, that all theſe Advantages were but imperfect in reſpect of what might be hoped for, if by opening his way into the *Black Sea*, he could ſettle a Communication with *Italy*, and ſome other provinces of *Europe*, by which means the Riches of *China*, of the *Indies* and *Perſia*, might be conveyed this way, to the no ſmall Benefit of the *Muſcovites*.

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The Conquest of *Asoph* had opened him the way to attain this end without any great difficulty, considering the present declining State of the *Ottoman* Empire, and the flourishing Condition of *Muscovy*, if he could prevail with his Imperial Majesty to continue the War a few years longer against the Infidels. It is agreed on all sides, That his Imperial Majesty shew'd as much inclination towards continuing the War with the *Turks*, than the Czar himself, and would have been as forward as any of the Confederates to second the laudable Zeal of His *Czarish* Majesty, if the present conjuncture had not obliged him to prefer the Interest of his Country before his Inclinations, at a time, when the Infidels made such considerable Offers to the Confederates for the obtaining a Truce or Peace.

For, besides that, by the Animosities Reigning in *Poland*, that King was not in a Condition to give any considerable diversion to the *Turks*, the Subjects of the Hereditary Counries of his Imperial Majesty being exhausted by the heavy Taxes, requisite for the carrying on so chargeable a War, stood in absolute need of some Respite to take breath, and the tottering State of the King of *Spain*'s health, was a sufficient warning to the Imperial Court to be upon their Guard against *France*, where vast Preparations were made to back their claim to that Crown by Force.

These

Theſe were the true reaſons that induced his Imperial Majeſty to conſent ſome Months after, to a Truce of 25 years with the *Ottoman Port*, wherein the *Czar* of *Muſcovy* was included; but choſe to accept of the ſame only for two years, for certain Reaſons of State, I ſhall have occaſion to mention to you anon.

On the 29th day of *June*, his *Czariſh* Majeſty had a private Audience from the Emperour, and deſiring to be *Incognito*, he was conducted by a pair of Back-ſtairs, to the Emperour's Antichamber, where he was received by his Imperial Majeſty in Perſon at the door; no body was admitted to be preſent at this Audience beſides the Count *Wallenſtein*, Lord High Chamberlain, and the Count of *Dieterichſtein*, Maſter of the Horſe to the Emperour; the Czar was accompanied up Stairs only by the General *Le Fort*, his firſt Ambaſſadour, who ſupplied the place of an Interpreter betwixt theſe two Illuſtrious Perſonages at this Interview.

After the firſt Complements were paſs'd, the Emperour put on his Hat, but finding that the *Czar* remain'd uncovered, he alſo took off his Hat again, and remained thus till the Interview, which laſted about half an Hour, was paſs'd.

Some days after, the Czar took an exact View of the Imperial Armory, Library, and other Rarities belonging to the Imperial Pallace, and the Emperour being ſen-

ſible of the Czar's Inclinations towards the Mathematicks, ſent him a Preſent of the choiceſt Mathematical Inſtruments that could be found.

He likewiſe invited the Czar to a very ſplendid Entertainment, which began with a moſt Admirable Conſort of Muſick, and after a Magnificent Collation, ended with a certain kind of Maſquerade, call'd in *Germany*, a *Wirthſhaft*, frequently to be ſeen in the Courts of the *German* Princes, where the Maſter of the Feaſt always repreſents the Perſon of a Hoſt; no body but perſons of the firſt Rank of both Sexes being admitted to this Diverſion.

In this, each Masker was clad after the Faſhion of ſome different Nation, with a Lady in an Habit anſwerable to the ſame Nation, ſo that the moſt remarkable Nations of the World, being repreſented by this illuſtrious Company, adorn'd with the Richeſt Stuffs, and a prodigious quantity of precious Stones, it afforded a moſt unuſual, but at the ſame time, moſt Magnificent and agreeable Spectacle to the Czar.

To be ſhort, this Court, to ſhew their utmoſt Reſpect to ſo Extraordinary a Gueſt, ſtrove to' out-vye all the reſt which His Majeſty had viſited before; There was nothing but Jollity and Feaſting to be ſeen, during his Stay at *Vienna*; and among others, the Count of *Starenbergh*, General of the Emperour's Armies, ſignaliz'd himſelf on this Occaſion, having invited

invited the *Czar* and his Ambaffadours, with all the Perfons of Quality of both Sexes, then at *Vienna*, to a moft fplendid Feaft.

The *Czar* in his Turn, took the opportunity of St. *Peter*'s Day, to Entertain the Principal Lords and Ladies of the Court, at the Pallace of *Gunterfdorff*, where the *Mufcovite* Ambaffadours were lodg'd; the Emperour folemniz'd the fame by an Artificial Fire-Work, and a fine Confort of Mufick.

Towards the latter end of *July*, the *Mufcovite* Ambaffadours had their publick Audience of His Imperial Majefty, which was very fplendid, efpecially in refpect of the rich Prefents defign'd for the Emperour, which confifted in the moft precious Ermines, and Sables, and Cloths of Gold and Silver, born by fifty Perfons, Clad all in black Velvet. They were receiv'd at their Entrance into the outward Court by the Guards in Arms, and after being admitted to the Audience of the Emperour with the ufual Ceremonies, were moft fplendidly Treated at Court, and reconducted to their own Pallace.

It was but a few days after, when the *Czar*, having taken a Refolution to go to *Venice*, in order, as it was fuppofed, to concert Matters with that Republick, how beft to annoy the *Turks* at Sea, he fent fome of his Train and Equippage before. The *Venetians* were no fooner inform'd of His Majefty's Refolution, but they appoint-

ed four Procurators of St. *Mark*, to receive and attend him. They ordered the neceſſary Carriages to the Frontiers, and the Pallace of *Toſcari* in the Arſenal, was to be fitted up for his Receiption. But when every body expected to hear of the *Czar*'s Departure for *Venice*, great was their Surprize when they underſtood, that he had taken his Leave on a ſudden of the Emperour, and was return'd with only thirty of his moſt Truſty Servants, (among whom were General *Le Fort*, and *Fedor Alexiovitz Gallowin*, his two Ambaſſadours) by the Way of *Poland* into *Muſcovy*, leaving *Procofet Bogdanovitz Wolnitzin*, his third Ambaſſadour at *Vienna*, as his Plenipotentiary, to manage his Intereſt at the approaching Treaty betwixt the *Confederates* and *Turks*.

You may eaſily ſuppoſe, that the whole Court was not a little amazed at this unexpected Change of the *Czar*'s former Reſolution, every one judging of the Matter according to his Opinion, but the Generality attributing it to ſome great Commotion in *Muſcovy*, the Truth of which was not confirm'd to us, till ſome time after.

I told you before, that ſoon after his *Czariſh* Majeſty's arrival at *Vienna*, he receiv'd the News of a Revolt among the *Strelitzes* in *Muſcovy*, and of their Defeat by General *Gourdon*, which made the *Czar* take a Reſolution to go to *Venice* before his Return into *Muſcovy*; but the event has ſhewn

ſhewn ſince, that they were not ſo entirely diſperſed, but that their Party appear'd very formidable, notwithſtanding their laſt Rout. For by the Confeſſion of ſome of the Rebels that were put to the Rack, they were back'd in this Enterprize not only by the Princeſs *Sophia*, the preſent Czar's Siſter, but alſo by a great many of the Nobility, who had been diſguſted at the Czar's Severity againſt ſome of their Kindred, and by a conſiderable Part of the Army upon the Frontiers of *Poland.*

The Princeſs *Sophia*, with her Adherents, taking the Advantage of the Czar's Abſence, left no ſtone unturn'd to inſinuate into the People, that he had overturn'd the whole Frame of the Antient *Ruſſian* Government, by reducing the Standing Forces of the *Strelitzes* to ſo inconſiderable a Number, and depriving them of their moſt antient Priviledges, in lieu of which, he had ſet over them a great number of foreign Officers, who were his abſolute Favourites, and Domineer'd over the Natives at pleaſure.

That the Chief aim of his Journey into foreign Parts, was to bring along with him ſuch a Number of Foreigners, as ſhould be able ſo entirely to ſubdue the antient Nobility of the Empire, as to be paſt all hopes of recovering their former Priviledges and Dignity.

There were alſo ſome among the Clergy, who being jealous of the Czar's Favour towards theſe Foreigners, that were

not of the *Greek* Church, blew up the coals, clamouring with great Zeal to their Auditors, That their Religion was in most imminent Danger, by the Encouragement given to Foreigners of another Religion, who, as they were the Instruments of overturning the antient Foundation of the State, so they would in time prove the utter Ruine of their Religion.

To this it was added, That the Czar being at present in far distant Countries, they could not wish for a more seasonable Opportunity to recover their Loss, by putting the Government into the hands of the Princess *Sophia*, which of Right belonged to her in the Czar's Absence, and which she had managed with so much Dexterity during her Brother's Minority.

These Insinuations were so prevailing with many, that they had brought over to their Party, not only the *Strelitzes*, and other Malecontents of the Nobility, who were ready at all times to join against the Czar, but also some of the Head of the Clergy, many of the Chief of the Army, and among them the General that Commanded upon the Frontiers of *Lithuania*, as likewise some Lords and Courtiers of the first Rank, who were always look'd upon as absolutely devoted to the Czar's Interest.

Notice having been given to the Czar of these Cabals against his Person and Government, when he was just upon his departure for *Venice*, this obli ed him to alter

alter his Reſolution, being ſenſible that the ſureſt meaſures he could take at ſuch an extraordinary Juncture, were to endeavour to divert by his Royal Preſence, the Storm that threatned the deſtruction of his Government in his Abſence:

According to this Reſolution, he took the neareſt way through *Poland*, with a few of his faithful Friends, and after a Stay of three days at *Rava* near *Leopold*, where he had an Interview with his *Poliſh* Majeſty about Matters of great Moment, eſpecially concerning the approaching Treaty with the *Turks*; he continued his Journey with ſo much expedition, that he appear'd in *Muſcovy*, when his Enemies believ'd him to have been at *Venice*.

His ſo unexpected Appearance, as it fill'd all his faithful Subjects with Joy, ſo it ſtruck ſuch a Terrour into the Rebellious Party, that being thereby bereav'd of all hopes of Succeſs, they, durſt not as much as make any Attempt to put their projected Deſign in execution.

His *Czariſh* Majeſty having in the mean while, taken a firm Reſolution, to ſtrike at the Root of this Rebellion, and to eradicate Root and Branch this Factious Crew of the *Strelitzes*, above two thouſand of them were executed in ſight of the Princeſs *Sophia*, all the reſt being baniſhed into *Siberia*, and ſome other remote Provinces; Many of the Nobility, of which number were Prince *Colorin*, and the

the General *Romanodokowski*, with several Ladies of Quality, some Fryers, and other Priests of the first Rank, were some Emapal'd, some broken upon the Wheel, others buried alive.

I don't question but that you will look upon these Transactions of the Czar, as favouring of too much Severity, both in respect of the Number and Quality of those on whom these Rigorous Punishments were inflicted; but if you will call to mind the reiterated Conspiracies, carried on by this Party ever since his *Czarish* Majesty's Accession to the Crown, both against his Person and Government, you will, I am apt to believe, be obliged to own, that what was done upon this Account by the Czar, was not an Effect of his Natural Disposition, which is in no wise inclinable to Cruelty, but must be attributed to the present Urgency of the Affairs of the State, which required, that those Members, who after all the Lenitives had been made use of in vain, to allay their malignant Humours, were now to be treated with Corrosives, and such as were quite degenerated into an incurable Gangrene, must be separated from the rest, by cutting off the infected Parts.

You cannot be ignorant that since his Majesty's return into *Muscovy*, a Truce has been concluded with the *Turks* for 25 years, in respect of his Imperial Majesty and the Crown of *Poland*, but for two years only with his *Czarish* Majesty. The Treaty betwixt his *Czarish* Majesty and the *Turk-*

Turkiſh Sultan, was ſign'd under the Tents near *Carlowitz*, *December* the 25th, 1698, by *Procofet Bogdanovitz Wolnitzin*, as Plenipotentiary and Ambaſſadour Extraordinary of the Czar of *Muſcovy*, and *Mehemed Rami*, and *Alexander Mauro Cordati de Scarlati*, as Plenipotentiaries of the *Ottoman* Port, conſiſting in theſe three following Articles.

1. That by Vertue of this Treaty, a Truce is concluded betwixt theſe two Potent Empire for two years, to begin from the 15th day of *December*, S. N. 1698. And that in the mean while, all poſſible Endeavours ſhall be uſed on both ſides, to re-ſettle a perfect Amity and good Underſtanding betwixt both Parties, either by a firm and perpetual Peace, or the prolongation of this Truce for a longer ſpace of Years.

2. That in the mean time all Acts of Hoſtility under what Pretence ſoever, ſhall be forborn, and all Animoſities laid aſide betwixt both Parties.

3. That the *Chan* of *Crim-Tartary* ſhall be comprehended in this Truce, who in the mean while, ſhall be obliged to prevent all Excurſions on his ſide. And effectual Care is to be taken on both ſides, that none of the other *Tartarian Herds*, or any of the *Coſſacks*, as well thoſe under the *Muſcovite* as *Ottoman* Juriſdiction, may commit any Hoſtilities or Depredations, ſuch of the beforementioned *Tartars* or *Coſſacks* (whether *Muſcovites* or *Turks*)

that

that ſhall in any wiſe violate or act contrary to this Article, being to be exemplary puniſhed by their reſpective Sovereigns.

I am apt to imagine, that conſidering the ſmall Space of Time concluded in this Treaty for the Truce betwixt theſe two Potent Princes, it will be look'd upon among you, who live at ſo great a diſtance, as a Politick Contrivance of this Court and that of *Poland*, to wipe off the Blemiſh of deſerting ſo Potent an Ally, who has given ſo conſiderable a Diverſion to the *Turks*, during ſome Years of this War; but I do not queſtion before I come to the Concluſion of this Letter, to make it apparent, that as the whole was tranſacted by his *Czariſh* Majeſty's Orders and good liking, ſo the ſame is founded upon a moſt ſolid and refined Reaſons of State, on the ſide of the *Muſcovites*.

I told you before, That the Czar of *Muſcovy*, having by the Conqueſt of the City of *Aſoph*, ſituate ſo near the *Palus Miotis*, not only opened his Way into the *Black-Sea*, but alſo to the entire Conqueſt of the *Crim-Tartary*, and the whole *Peninſula*, as far as to the *Boryſthenes* it ſelf, had all the Reaſon in the World, to be deſirous of the Continuance of the War againſt the *Turks*; and that this was one of the Chief Motives of his Journey to the Court of *Venna*.

But

But his *Czarish* Majesty being made sufficiently sensible, that at this juncture of time, the Confederates, without great Prejudice to their own Interest, could not refuse the Advantageous Propositions offered by the *Turks*, he could not pitch upon a better Expedient than this Truce of two years, to accomplish his Great Design of either making himself Master of the *Black-Sea*, or at least to oblige the *Turks* to grant his Subjects a free Trade in their Ports, for the Conveniency of Transporting the *China*, *Indian*, *Persian*, and *Russian* Commodities into *Italy*, and other Parts of *Europe*.

This will be manifest, if we make a due comparison betwixt the present posture of Affairs, betwixt the *Turks* and *Muscovites* on that side. For, not to mention here the present flourishing State of the *Muscovite* Empire, and the declining Condition of the *Turks* in general, it is most evident, that the *Ottomans* lie under no small Disadvantages, in respect of the *Muscovites* on that side.

The *Muscovites* by the late Conquests upon the *Borysthenes* and *Palus Miotis*, by the Submission of the *Cossacks* and *Circassian Tartars*, by strengthning the old, and erecting several new Fortresses in these Parts, have so strengthned their Frontiers thereabouts, that they seem to be inpenetrable, considering the powerful Succours they are able to send to the Relief of any place that shall be attack'd

by

by the *Turks*; the *Muſcovite* Armies by the introduction of a regular Martial Diſcipline among them, and the vaſt Number of well qualified foreign Officers, who command them, being at leaſt equal, if not ſuperiour to the *Turkiſh Janiſaries* themſelves, the Flower and Main ſtrength of their Armies, which alſo has been reduced to a much leſs number, by the Misfortunes they have ſuffered in the laſt War againſt the Chriſtians.

It is furthermore to be conſidered, that the *Turks* having hitherto look'd upon the *Muſcovites* as ſo inconſiderable, that the *Crim-Tartary* was thought a ſufficient Bulwark againſt them, their Fortreſſes and Maritime Towns, though of the greateſt Conſequence to them, in reſpect of maintaining the Dominion of the *Black-Sea*, have been neglected; whereas by the Vigilancy of his preſent *Czariſh* Majeſty, the *Muſcovite* Frontiers are in a better State than any of his other Dominions, by the Addition of ſeveral regular Fortifications.

The Naval Strength of *Muſcovy*, tho' ſcarce worth mentioning a few years ago, has by the indefatigable Care of the preſent *Czar Peter Alexiovitz*, been eſtabliſhed upon ſo good and firm a Foundation, that the ſame is incomparably ſuperior to the *Turkiſh* Fleet (which has been batter'd ſo often by the *Venetians* of late) both in reſpect of number of Ships, and the goodneſs of their Seamen and Commanders,

of

of which last, the *Czar* has taken a considerable number into his Service, during his stay in these Parts.

The Treaty betwixt the *Christians* and *Turks* being chiefly built upon this Foundation, that Matters should remain among all Parties in *Statuo-quo*, his *Czarish* Majesty had little prospect of obtaining the Dominion over the *Black-Sea*, or a free Commerce in the *Turkish* Ports by a long Truce, which would have given the *Turks* leisure to recover Breath, and to strengthen their Fortresses and Maritime Places on that side; whereas two years cannot be judged in any wise a proportionable time requisite for to put themselves in a State of defence against so Potent a Neighbour as the *Czar* of *Muscovy* is at present; so that at the expiration of these two years, his *Czarish* Majesty has all the Probability on his side to obtain his aim, either by the prolongation of this Truce, or force of Arms.

That this is his Czarish Majesty's design, seems sufficiently probable to me from his vast Preparations at Sea, being informed from very good hands, that he has at *Veroniza* only near fourty stout Men of War, ready to put to Sea, most of which carry betwixt fifty and sixty Guns, besides thirty more which are to be ready and fit for Service against the next Spring, and a proportionable number of Great and small Gallies, Mann'd for the most part with foreign Mariners, very Expert in the

Sea-

Sea-service. What Force are the *Turks* able to oppose at this time against such a Naval Strength, when they have not been able to cope with the *Venetians* at Sea in this last War? I am not ignorant that some of our Politicians in this Court are of Opinion, that when, by the intended Canal betwixt the two Rivers, *Wolga* and *Don*, a Communication is made with the *Caspian-Sea*, the *Czar* may with more Conveniency extend his Conquests that way; but considering, that the *Caspian-Sea* has few good Ports, and that the *Muscovite* Territories are separated by Land by vast Desarts from *Persia*, and that there is a strict Correspondence betwixt these two vast neighbouring Empires, founded upon the Conveniency of their mutual Commerce, I see no great Reason why it may not be more reasonably supposed, that, in case the *Turks* do not by granting free Commerce to the *Muscovites*, after the expiration of this two Years Truce, prevent the Storm, his *Czarish* Majesty should not turn his Arms against them, especially in the *Black-Sea*, where every thing seems to flatter him with hopes of Success and great Advantages on his side.

I am afraid I have been too tedious in these Reflections, wherefore I would not tire your Patience, if I had not something to add, before I come to the Conclusion of this Letter, concerning the *Grand-Tartary*, and other Northern Countries,

tries, betwixt the River *Oby* and the *Chineſe* Wall; in the Deſcription of which, as the antient Geographers have labour'd with ſuch ill Succeſs, and given us their own Inventions for Truth; and the Modern Hiſtorians for the moſt part, have deſcribed us inacceſſible Deſarts in lieu of a well inhabited Country; ſo, I reckon it will not be diſagreeable to you, if I give you ſome Account of what I have been able to learn concerning this Point, from ſome of the moſt open-hearted and moſt ingenious among the *Muſcovites*, during the Stay of the late Great Embaſſy in this Court.

I have told you before that the World was beholding to the *Muſcovites*, for the diſcovery of the Way by Land through the *Great-Tartary* into *China*. For the Way by Land through *India*, and the Territories of the *Great Mogul*, being found almoſt impracticable by reaſon of the vaſt Deſarts; the Inhabitants of *Siberia*, after they had ſubmitted to the *Muſcovites*, furniſhed them with ſufficient Opportunity to diſcover the Way into *China* on that ſide. For theſe People being encouraged by the Advantages of vending their Sable Martins to the *Muſcovites* at ſo exceſſive a rate, as well as their black Fox-Skins, ſcarce ever known before in thoſe Parts, did, to ſatisfie their Avarice, engage themſelves in thoſe far diſtant Countries in queſt of theſe Creatures, by which

means they were by degrees, and as it may be ſaid, inſenſibly brought upon thoſe Roads which lead into *China.*

After the firſt diſcovery of theſe Roads, the *Muſcovites* did leave no ſtone unturn'd, to make themſelves acquainted with the Countries that lie betwixt them and the *Chineſe* Wall; for which purpoſe they uſed, under ſome pretence or other, to ſend frequent Meſſengers into *China*, who have taken divers Roads, and many times making great Circumferences in their Journeys, they by this means, in proceſs of Time, made all the diſcoveries they could wiſh for. They diſcovered beſides the *Oſtiakoi*, *Bratskoi*, and *Tungoeſes*, who have their Habitations near the Rivers which border upon *Siberia*, three different ſorts of *Tartars*, very remarkable for the vaſt extent of thoſe Countries they are poſſeſs'd of; to wit: The *Tartars* of *Bogdoi*, the *Mongul Tartars*, and the *Calmucks.*

The firſt are the ſame which by the *Chineſes*, are call'd, the *Eaſtern-Tartars*: Their Country is of a vaſt extent, encloſed betwixt the *Eaſtern* Seas and the Rivers *Chingala* and *Tamour*. They were the firſt that many Ages ago, entred *China*, but now are Tributaries to that Empire; which makes them much more civiliz'd than the reſt of the *Tartars*, by reaſon of their great Commerce with the *Chineſes*; the Rivers of *Tamour* and *Chingala*,

gala, affording great store of Rubies and Pearls, which supply the defect of their Cattle, which is very small. They are in their Bodies not unlike to the *Crim-Tartars*, and both their Language and Characters not unlike the *Persian*, but they write like the *Chineses*, from the top downwards. Though they are not altogether ignorant of Guns and Gun-powder, yet not being well inform'd of all the Advantages belonging to them, they make but seldom use of them, they are Govern'd by several *Chans*.

To the West of these *Eastern-Tartars*, are those of *Mongul*, inhabiting a spacious Country, betwixt the River *Tamour*, *China*, *Turquestan*, and the *Calmucks*, from whom they are divided by vast Desarts. They are Govern'd by three Princes, who have each of them several other *Chans* under their Jurisdiction. They are call'd by the *Chineses*, the *Western-Tartars*, and acknowledge in some measure, the Authority of the Czars of *Muscovy*, by reason of the Neighbourhood of *Siberia*, and some other Countries thereabouts, Subject to the *Muscovite* Empire, with whom they keep Traffick in Cattle, of which they have a great Plenty, this Country being very full of Rivers, good Meadows and Pastorages. They are unacquainted with the use of Fire-Arms, and inhabit neither Towns nor Villages.

The *Calmuck Tartars* possess that vast Tract of Land, which lies betwixt these *Mongul Tartars* and the River *Wolga*, as far as to the Desarts of *Astracan*; they are divided into many *Hordes*, each under the Command of a particular *Chan*, yet they acknowledge one Principal *Chan*, who deduces his Pedigree from the Great *Tamerlan*, and keeps a very Noble Court after the *Tartarian* Manner; They have no fixed Habitations no more than the *Monguls*, but live in Tents very Commodiously contrived. As they never stay long in a place, so they are the quickest in the World at Encamping and Decamping, which is the reason the Czars of *Muscovy* seek for their Alliance, by certain yearly Presents; and these are very ready to keep a good Correspondence with the *Muscovites*, for the Conveniency of vending their Horses and Slaves, which they take from the other Neighbouring *Tartars*. They are all inclining to an Olive colour, their Eyes small but sparkling, their Noses short and somewhat flat. Their Habits are for the most part the same, being distinguished only from one another, by a Tuft of Silk upon their round Bonnets, according to the colour of the *Horde* to whom they belong. They wear only Sheep-Skins, sew'd together in the nature of Vests, with a Cord round their Waste, whereon they fasten their Bows and Quivers.

You

You may eafily imagine, that when the *Mufcovites* had once opened their Paffage into thofe Parts, it was no difficult Task for them, to fubdue thofe inhabiting near their Frontiers by force of Arms, and by the Terror of their Strength, to fettle a fair Correfpondence with the reft; fo that following firft the Tracts of the Rivers *Oby*, *Schelinga*, *Geneffai* and *Yamour*, they built feveral Fortreffes upon the faid Rivers, both to fecure their Conquefts, and for the more convenient Paffage of their *Caravans* to *China*.

The laft Fortrefs, which the *Mufcovites* built upon the River *Yamour*, is called *Albazin*, which, as it is not above a Months Journey from *Peking*, the Capital of the *Chinefe* Empire, fo it prov'd the occafion of the late War betwixt the *Chinefes* and *Mufcovites*, which was carried on for fome time with equal Vigour on both fides, till at laft, the prefent Czar *Peter Alexiovitz*, being made fenfible by Experience of the great Inconveniences that attended this War on his fide, in reference to the vaft diftance of thefe Frontiers, which are five or fix Months March from the City of *Mufcow*; whereas on the other hand, the *Chinefes* fend their Supplies with much more Eafe, and infinite lefs Charge, by reafon of the nearnefs of the *Eaftern-Tartars*, their Subjects; and the *Czar* having at the fame time a ftrong Inclination to come to a Rupture with the *Turks*, at a

Juncture when their Affairs were but in an ill posture, resolved to come to an Accommodation with the *Chineses*.

The first meeting of the Ambassadours of these two Potent Empires upon the Frontiers near *Albazin*, proved unsuccessful, the *Chineses*, according to their antient Customs, insisting upon some Ceremonies, that would not in any wise be granted by the *Muscovites*; But the second Treaty succeeded according to wish, the *Chineses* being forced to abate of their Pride, and to Treat the *Muscovite* Ambassadours from that time, with all the Respect due to their Character.

The *Muscovites* having not till very lately applied themselves to the Sea, it is no great wonder, if they have not neglected the Passage by Water into *China*, by the Way of the Rivers *Oby*, *Genessai*, and *Tamour*; and in lieu thereof, have left nothing unattempted to open their Passage thither by Land. 'Tis true, the Heaps of Ice, which for the greatest part of the Year are to be met with at the Entrance of the River *Oby*, the many Waterfalls of the River *Genessai*, and the Bulrushes which choak almost up the mouth of the River *Tamour*, are Obstacles, which though they might have been surmounted by industrious and expert Seamen, yet were so terrifying to the *Muscovites*, as to bereave them of all hopes of Success.

And

And to confeſs the Truth, conſidering the Method uſed by the *Ruſſian* Merchants and *Caravans*, and the good Order taken for their convenient Paſſage through theſe Parts, the ſame contribute not a little towards mitigating both the Trouble and Charge of ſo long a Journey.

They ſet forward moſt commonly from the City of *Muſcow* in *February*, when the Snow being well beaten, they travel in nineteen or twenty days, as far as *Tobolskoy*, the Capital City of *Siberia*, eight hundred *Engliſh* Miles diſtant from the City of *Muſcow*. If it happens to thaw about that time (which is very ſeldom) they take the conveniency of the Rivers on this and the other ſide of the River *Oby*, by which means they croſs the Country till they come to the *Oſtiakoi*, the firſt of the *Eaſtern-Tartars*, Subject to the *Czar* of *Muſcovy*. But if the Froſt continue, they go on by Land the ſame way, where they change their Horſes for *Renes* or *Rain-deers*, which carry them with incredible ſwiftneſs over the Snow and Ice to the City of *Geneſſai*, built by the *Muſcovites* upon the River of the ſame Name, for the conveniency of their Merchants travelling in thoſe Parts; Here it is they take Veſſels which carry them upon the Rivers *Tonguſi* and *Angara*, againſt the Stream, to the Lake of *Baikala*.

From this Lake, they either take Shipping upon the River *Schelinga*, as far as to a City of the same Name, owing likewise its foundation to the *Muscovites*; or else proceed in their Way by Land, immediately after they have cross'd the beforementioned Lake, through the Country of the *Mongul Tartars*, who readily furnish them with Mules and Dromedaries, to the Confines of *China*.

But for the better understanding of this Famous Passage by Land, I will conclude this Letter with giving you the best Account I could get, of several of the *Muscovites* here, of the Road lately taken by several Embassy's sent into *China*.

They go from *Muscow* to the Famous Convent of *Troitza*, about sixty *English* Miles; from thence to the City of *Peresla*, as many Miles from *Troitza*.

From *Peresla*, they go to the City of *Rostof*, sixty Miles from the last, and so to the City of *Jeresla*, near a hundred and twenty Miles distant from thence.

From *Jeresla*, they go to the Great City of *Wologda*, which lies one hundred and eighty Miles from the last.

From this place, they continue their Journey to the small City of *Tottma*, upon the River *Wergno Suchuno*, and so to *Ustiuga*, a considerable Place upon the River *Suchana*; from thence to a small

ſmall City, call'd *Lolowitzgotz,* upon the River *Wietzegda*, which exonerates it ſelf in the River *Dwina.*

About fifty Miles from thence, they paſs through a great Forreſt above ſeven hundred Miles long; after which they come to *Kaigorod,* a City upon the Famous River *Kama.*

From *Kaigorod,* they proceed to *Solokamskoy,* a City upon the River *Uſolsko,* which thereabouts diſcharges it ſelf in the River *Kama.*

Thus they continue their Journey for one hundred and twenty Miles without any conſiderable River, till they come to the River *Luſowa*, where they take Shipping for *Utzogorod,* a goodly City, near three hundred and fifty Miles diſtant from *Solokamskoy.*

From thence they go forward to *Jat,* a Town upon the River *Ajat*, and ſo by *Romoſhora,* upon the River *Reſh,* to *Newagorod* upon the River *Newa*, the firſt Town of *Siberia.*

From hence they paſs through a fertile and well Peopled Country to the Town of *Zudna,* ſituate upon the River *Nietza,* to the Towns of *Niginskoy, Irbitskoy, Kirginskoy*, *Subrorawa* and *Jalaw,* the laſt of which lies upon the River *Tura,* where the River *Newa* diſcharges it ſelf into the ſame.

They

They continue their Journey from hence to the Town of *Krasna*, to the City of *Tumeen*, and so to the Town of *Makoma* upon the River *Pishina*, where it discharges it self into the River *Tura*; from thence to the Town of *Siltska*, at the confluence of the two Rivers *Tura* and *Tobol*, the last being on the right; which brings them to the City of *Tobolskoy*, the Capital of *Siberia*, situate upon the confluence of the two Rivers, *Jotish* and *Tobol*, the last of which has given her its name.

From *Tobolskoy*, they continue their Journey through the Towns of *Demian* and *Samurskoyam*, and about two Miles beyond the last, they meet with a Branch of the Famous River *Oby*, which brings them to the City of *Surguto*, and afterwards to the City of *Narim*, situate upon the Banks of the River *Oby*.

Here they quit this River, and proceed to the River *Kett*, which brings them to the Town of *Kettsway*.

From hence they go to *Makafskoy*, and after they have travelled for two days and nights through a great Forrest, they come to the City of *Jeneskay*, upon the River *Jeneskay*, which is both very Navigable, and its Banks inhabited by the *Ostiaki*.

After

After they have continued their Journey for some time upon this River, they leave it to the Right, and take their way towards the River *Tungunsi*, whereabouts are the Habitations of the *Tungeses*; which they leave again to the Right, and proceed in their Journey to the City of *Ilimskoy*, situate on the River *Ilim*, the Country thereabouts being pretty well inhabited.

After they have travelled three days and nights through a Forrest, they come to the River *Augara*, which brings them to the City of *Irkuskoy*, situate upon the River.

About thirty Miles from hence is the Lake of *Baikala*, where the River *Augara* has its first rise, being the utmost Boundary of *Siberia*.

From hence they continue their Journey through the Towns of *Kabaria*, *Belsko-Saimcko*, and *Ostreg-Udinskoy*, in the Province of *Dauria*, inhabited by *Tartars*, to the City of *Jerawena*, situate upon a Lake of the same name..

After they have pass'd this Lake, they are forced to travel through a great Desart, which is watered however by the River *Uda*, and at last come to the Lake called *Schacks-Oser*, about two Miles over; then they come to the Village of *Plotbus*, about a Mile from whence the Rivers *Sueta* and *Onna*, fall into the River *Ingeda*, which from thence forward

ward is called *Schilka*, and being augmented by the two Rivers *Nertza* and *Arguna*, produces that Famous River, the *Yamour*.

From hence they go to the City of *Nertzinskoy*, upon the River *Nertza*; being the last Fortress upon these Frontiers belonging to the *Muscovites*.

Then they travel for near three weeks thro' Desarts, Forrests, and Boggy-grounds, till they come to *Arguna*, a small City upon a River of the same name, and the last Place under the *Muscovite* Jurisdiction in the Province of *Dauria*. Here they meet in their way with the Rivers *Derby*, *Gann*, *Kailar*, and *Saduma*, all which discharge themselves into the *Arguna*, till they come to the Source of the River *Jal*, where they meet with the first Out-gards of the *Chineses*, being a very fertile and well peopled Country, inhabited by the *Targutshini*, who are Pagans, Subject to *China*.

Through these they pass to a Village, called *Suttigarski*, and from thence to the City of *Naun*, three Miles distant from the former. From hence they proceed in their Journey for several days, through another Desart destitute of any Springs or other Water, till they come to the River *Casumur*, which discharges it self in the River *Naun*.

They

They paſs afterwards by the Ruines of a great many Cities, and at three days Journey from the Famous *Chineſe* Wall, through a Road cut out of the Rocks, which brings them to the City of *Karakaton.*

After they have paſs'd the *Chineſe* Wall, the firſt Place they meet with is the City of *Galgan*; not above a Mile within the Wall; from thence they go to *Xantuning*, *Xunguxu*, *Xangote*, and *Tunxo* to *Peking*, the Reſidence of the Emperours of *China.* Being ſenſible that I have ſufficiently tired your Patience, I will add no more, but in expectation of your next, reſt

Vienna, Feb.
24. 1699. *Sir,*

Yours, &c.

THE

THE HISTORY OF CANG-HY The Present Emperour OF CHINA

Pesented to the

Most Christian King

By Father J. BOUVET, *of the Society of* JESUS, *and Missionary into* CHINA.

LONDON, Printed for *F. Coggan*, in the *Inner-Temple-Lane*. MDCXCIX.

The HISTORY of

CANG-HI,

The Present

Emperour of *China*:

AND THE

EASTERN-TARTARY.

THE Name of the Emperour who at this time Commands over all *China*, and Part of the *Great Tartary*, is *CANG-HI*, which implies as much as *THE PEACEABLE*. He succeeded his Father, *CHUN-TCHI*, a Prince of the *Tartarian* Race, call'd, *The Mantcheou's*, who first of all, being possessed of a large Tract of Ground in the *Great Eastern Tartary*, afterwards settled themselves in the Province of *Leaotong*, situate on the North-East side of *China*; and at last compleated the Conquest of this vast Monarchy, towards the middle of our Age.

This Prince is at present in the 44th year of his Age, and the 36th of his Reign; a Person, who by many Noble Qualifications has rendred himself Worthy of the Management of so Great an Empire.

His whole Deportment is very Majestick, being well proportion'd in his Limbs, and pretty Tall, the Feature of his Face very exact, , with a large and brisk Eye, beyond what is observable among others of that Nation; He is a little crooked Nosed, and pitted with the Small-pox, but not so as to be in the least disfigur'd by them.

But the rare Accomplishments of his Mind, surpass infinitely those of his Body. His Natural Genius is such as can be parallell'd but by few, being endow'd with a Quick and piercing Wit, a vast Memory, and Great Understanding; His Constancy is never to be shaken by any finister Event, which makes him the fittest Person in the World, not only to undertake, but also to accomplish Great Designs.

To be short, His inclinations are so Noble, and in all respects so Answerable to the High Station of so Great a Prince, that his People stand in Admiration of his Person, being equally Charm'd with his Love and Justice, and the Tenderness he shews for his Subjects, and with his vertuous Inclinations; which as they are always guided by the Dictates of Reason, so, they render him an Absolute Master of his Passions. But,

But, what may ſeem moſt ſurpriſing, is, that ſo Great a Monarch, who bears upon his Shoulders the Weight of ſo vaſt an Empire, ſhould apply himſelf with a great deal of Aſſiduity to, and have a true reliſh of all Sorts of uſeful Arts and Sciences.

It was owing to his extraordinary *Genius* which appear'd in his very Infancy, the Emperour his Father, notwithſtanding his Tender Age, gave him the Preference before all his Brothers, in declaring him his Succeſſour; and this Prince has by his Conduct, ſince, made it apparent to all the World, that his Father was not miſtaken in his Choice.

For no ſooner was he mounted upon the Throne, but his Chief aim was, how to make himſelf beloved by both the Nations he was to Command; and knowing the *Tartars* to be a Warlike People, he accompliſhed himſelf in all Sorts of Exerciſes uſed among them, as well as in thoſe Sciences moſt eſteem'd among the *Chineſes*.

In Bodily Exerciſes he ſoon improv'd, to that degree, that there was ſcarce any Perſon of Note that could coop with him. And as the *Tartars* equally eſteem the Strength and Agility of Body, they ſtand amaz'd at this Prince, when they ſee him manage his Bow with the utmoſt Dexterity, which is of ſuch a bigneſs, that there is not one in the whole Court, who can bend it. He ſhoots well, both

with his left and right Hand, whether on Foot or on Horſeback, though riding at full-ſpeed, and rarely miſſes his Mark, even when he ſhoots flying. He is very expert in Managing all ſorts of Arms, not excepting thoſe, that are no more in uſe now a-days, and is as dextrous at Handling our Fire-locks, as at the Bow. The *Tartars* are naturally good Horſemen, but this Prince ſurpaſſes moſt of them in this Exerciſe.

Notwithſtanding he excels thus in all Military Exerciſes, this does not hinder his having a good reliſh of Muſick, eſpecially of thoſe Muſical Inſtruments, which are brought thither out of *Europe*. And, if the multitude and weight of publick Affairs did not prevent him from playing upon the ſame, as often as he could wiſh, there is no queſtion but he would ſoon become as great a Maſter of them, as he is of ſome *Tartarian* and *Chineſe* Inſtruments, which he has been taught to play upon, when as yet in his tender Age.

But as he is not ignorant that the Art of Government is the Principal Qualification belonging to a Sovereign, ſo it is to that he has applied himſelf with the utmoſt Diligence. He was ſcarce ſixteen years of Age, when his Chief Miniſter of State (who was the moſt Potent of thoſe four Lords, unto whom his Father had committed the Regency during his Son's Minority) was become ſo inſolent, as

to

to Lord it over all the Princes of the Blood, and to dispose of all the Courts of Justice at Pleasure, no body daring to stand in opposition to his Greatness.

This young Emperour was the first who had resolution enough to stop the carreer of his insolency. For which purpose, having call'd together the Chiefest of the Princes of the Royal Blood, who were Members of the Great Council of the Empire, he upbraided them with their want of Courage, in conniving at the Outrages committed by this Minister of State, without daring to oppose him in his violent Courses, and at the same time, ordered the President of this Council, to go immediately and seize his Person, which was done accordingly.

He being convicted of many Injustices, was condemned to die; but having asked and obtained permission to see the Emperour before his Death, he shewed him the Scars and Marks of his Wounds, which he had received in the Service of the Emperour *TAITSOW* (whose Life he saved) Grand-Father to His Majesty, and Father of the Emperour *CHUN-TCHI*, who entirely conquered *China*. In consideration of these Wounds received in the Service of the two preceding Reigns, he was pardon'd as to his Life, and his Punishment changed into a perpetual Imprisonment, where he afterwards ended his days.

 Ever

Ever ſince that time, the Emperour having taken the Reins of the Government into his own hands, he has applied himſelf to the management of Affairs, with ſo much Aſſiduity, that he takes cognizance of all matters, and regulates them himſelf, after having underſtood the Sentiments of his Miniſters of State and Council. By this continual application to Buſineſs, he has acquired ſuch a Habit of managing all publick Affairs, that ſo prodigious a multitude and variety of Buſineſs, as daily were brought before him from the moſt remote Parts of ſo vaſt an Empire, ſeem'd rather to be his Diverſion, than any Toil.

For which purpoſe, he gives duly every Morning at break of day, Audience to thoſe of the Sovereign Courts of *Peking*, who then lay all the Petitions lodg'd with them, before him. If the ſaid Petitions concern any thing of Moment, he ſends them to the Court of *Colao*, which is properly the Council of the Empire; where, when they are examined, and an Account given concerning them to the Emperour, he decides them as he thinks fit; No Judgment of any Court not of the Council of the Empire it ſelf being of any Validity, till approv'd of by the Emperour.

Beſides, thoſe Hours he ſets aſide in the Morning to give Audience, there is a certain Perſon of great Ability, in the nature of a Maſter of Requeſts, who all

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the day long attends the Emperour's Person, wherever he goes, and receives such Petitions or other Papers, as must be delivered to His Majesty, and to hear such Persons, as have any Business to be delivered by way of mouth, of which this Gentleman is bound to give an exact Account instantly to His Majesty, and to bring back his Answer, provided they are Persons, whose province it is, to inform the Court concerning these Matters, for otherwise they meet seldom with any Encouragement.

If any of his Subjects find themselves oppressed by the *Mandarins* or Governours, they need only to enquire when the Emperour goes out of *Peking* a Hunting, or upon any other Diversion, and so to present themselves upon their Knees with their Petition open in their hands, somewhere near the High Road where he is to pass by; when most commonly the Emperour sends one of his Attendance, to enquire and examine the Matter of Complaint, and if the *Mandarins* are found guilty, they are sure to meet with most severe Punishment; But great care must be taken in this Case by the Subjects, to offer these Petitions with all the imaginable Respect and Humility due to His Majesty, expecting his coming, at a convenient distance from the High-road, if they expect to be favourably receiv'd; For if they are wanting in these Marks of Respect, and will force themselves upon

him, by loud Acclamations, and demanding Justice, they are push'd back by the Guards; tho' effectual Care is taken, that no hurt be done to any who come to present their Petitions, unless they should be so bold as to lose all manner of Respect; this Prince being willing to give all due Encouragement to his Subjects, to have recourse to him in their Grievances, looking upon this as the most proper Means to keep the *Mandarins* in their Duty, for fear of being accused before the Emperour. We have observed during our Stay in *China*, that many of the most Considerable *Mandarins* of the Empire, and who had free Access to the Prince's Person, being thus complain'd against, and found guilty of what they were charg'd with, lost not only their Employments, but were likewise severely punished, according to their Deserts.

The present Emperour never had any Favourite Minister, in whom he confided, but has introduced such an Absolute Government in the Court, that no body dares speak to him concerning any Business that does not belong to his Province, unless he be ask'd. And, as for his own Person, he is so close in all his Affairs, that the more you approach to his Person, the more you are convinced, that his Designs are past all Discovery.

It is his Custom to require an exact Account of all Matters of Moment, and to have secret Intelligence by different Per-

Perſons, of all that is tranſacted in the Courts of Juſtice, and otherwiſe; when he gives Audience to private perſons, he asks much, but anſwers little. He obſerves with great attention every word that is ſpoke to him, which he ruminates upon at leiſure; And to be ſhort, there is ſcarce any Prince, that ever I heard of, who more ſeriouſly reflects upon all what comes before him, who knows better the Art of Diſſimulation, and is a greater Maſter both of his Words and Secrets.

He is ſo happy in his Memory, as to remember for a great while after, the meaneſt Circumſtances of Things he has once taken notice of, even to the names of Perſons; neither the multitude of his Affairs, of which he daily takes cognizance himſelf, neither length of Time being able to craſe that out of his Memory, which has been once firmly imprinted there. Of this we as well as Father *Verbieſt*, have had ſeveral times Experience; Among the reſt it happened one day, when the ſaid Father was following the King in one of his Progreſſes, that his Majeſty ask'd him the name of a certain Bird which he ſaw, and the name of which, Father *Verbieſt* had told him in *Flemiſh*, ſeveral years before; The ſaid Father not being able juſt then to remember the name of the ſaid Bird, which was ſomewhat odd; was not a little ſurpriſed, to hear the Emperour ask him, whether it was not call'd ſo and ſo in *Flemiſh*, and

that

that he ſhould remember what he had forgot himſelf!

This prince has ſo quick an inſight into Matters, that it is no eaſie Matter to deceive him, and ſuch is the Solidity of his Natural Underſtanding and Judgment, as moſt generally to pitch upon the beſt expedient, where the Succeſs is doubtful, and even the beſt Head-pieces among his Miniſters of State, do readily confeſs, that they are more beholding to his Inſtructions than their Advice in moſt Matters of Moment.

Of this he has given frequent Inſtances, both whilſt the Differences were on foot betwixt him and the *Muſcovites*, and during the Treaty of Peace with them. As the *Muſcovites* were formerly look'd upon as a very unpoliſh'd Nation, which had nothing that is engaging in their Converſation, and that the vaſt diſtance betwixt their Country and *Peking*, made them little regarded in *China*, as being ſcarce known there; ſo their firſt Embaſſy, which was ſent to *CHUN-TCHI*, the preſent Emperour's Father, was not as much as admitted to Audience.

For theſe *Muſcovites* having refuſed to conform themſelves to theſe ſlaviſh Ceremonies, which commonly are made uſe of by thoſe who make their applications to the *Chineſe* Court, they were kept up cloſe, in a manner, like Priſoners, without having the Liberty allow'd them to ſee the City of *Peking*, or to converſe

with

with any of the Inhabitants; and being after some time sent back with their Presents, and without receiving their Credentials; This gave the first Occasion to the *Muscovites* to Invade some of the *Tartars*, Subject to the *Chinese* Empire.

The present Emperour had no more reason to fear the *Muscovites*, than his Predecessours, but wisely considering, that they might prove troublesome Neighbours to some of the *Tartars* subject to and bordering upon *China*, His Majesty judged it most advisable, to treat them with more Civility, for the Benefit of his Subjects.

Of this he gave a very remarkable Proof some years ago; For the *Muscovites*, having been forced to surrender at Discretion, the Emperour was so far from punishing them with Death, (according to the antient Custom of *China*) that he treated them very civilly; those that were willing to return into *Muscovy* he sent back with a certain allowance of Provision; such as were willing to serve him, he receiv'd among his Troops, some of whom were sent to the Capital City of the Province of *Leaotong*, the others to *Peking*.

They had each of them a House with some Land, and Slaves allotted them, and each simple Foot Souldier was made a Horse Man; The Officers were entertained in the same Station, and in better pay than they had in the *Muscovite* service.

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In the same manner he has treated the *Muscovite* Envoys, which since that time were sent to his Court, with a great deal of Civility, in defraying their Charges as long as they were within his Territories, and ordering the necessary Carriages to be provided not only for their use, but also for their whole Baggage and Merchandizes, both in going and coming, through a large Tract of Land of above three hundred Leagues. Whilst they were at *Peking*, they had all the liberty that could be granted, both in their own Persons and Traffick, without paying the usual Custom, or any molestation. The *Muscovites* being thereby made sensible of the Benefit that did acrue to their Empire by this Commerce, the desire of not loosing this Advantage was one of the main reasons which induced them to conclude a Peace with the *Chineses*.

The *Muscovite* Plenipotentiaries did frankly confess to the two Fathers *Pereyra* and *Gerbillon*, which were sent by the Emperour of *China* to be present at the Conferences of Peace betwixt these two Nations, That the Chief Motive, which had prevailed with his *Czarish* Majesty to send his Plenipotentiaries to the Treaty of Peace, was the good Treatment his Subjects had of late received from the present Emperour of *China*.

It is certain that on the *Chinese* side, it was by the Emperour's absolute Authority, That it was resolved in his Council,

that

that their Plenipotentiaries ſhould meet thoſe of *Muſcovy* upon the Frontiers; this Prince looking upon it as very reaſonable, to diſpenſe with that antient Cuſtom of the Proud *Chineſes*, who never uſed to ſend any Ambaſſadours to foreign Princes, unleſs it was to carry to them their Emperour's Commands.

The two Chief of this Embaſſy were two of the moſt conſiderable Lords of his Court, the beſt Head-pieces in his Great Council, and of whoſe Integrity he was well aſſured. The Treaty not being brought to a good iſſue the firſt Year, he was ſo far from being diſguſted at this want of Succeſs, that on the contrary, he ſent his Plenipotentiaries a ſecond time, with ſuch full Inſtructions, that the Treaty was happily concluded, and the Limits ſettled betwixt theſe two Empires, to his Satisfaction.

It is more than probable, That if this Emperour would have inſiſted upon thoſe extravagant *Punctilio*'s, uſed among the *Chineſes*, and would have pretended to give no better reception to the *Muſcovite* Ambaſſadours, than what they had met with at their firſt Embaſſy ſent to this Court, they would have found means to enter into an Alliance with ſome of the *Weſtern Tartars*, by which means they might have proved very troubleſome Neighbours to the *Chineſe* Subjects on that ſide.

And upon this occasion, I cannot pass by in silence, That the *Muscovites* are not the only strangers, who have been made sensible of the good Will, the present Emperour bears to them. The *Portugese* and *Holland* Ambassadours, have received such signal Proofs of his Magnanimity, during their stay in this Court; That they do freely confess, That the present Emperour's Temper is far different in this respect, from that of the *Chineses* in general, who have at all times shewn so much Aversion to Strangers, and have look'd upon them as so despicable, as not worth their keeping any Correspondence with them; Or if they vouchsafed sometimes to receive some of their Ambassadours, they were treated rather like Subjects than their Equals.

Thus much is to be said in behalf of the *Chineses*, That unless it be the *Japoneses*, the *Toakineses* and *Coreans*, who have got something of Politeness, which they are obliged for, to the *Chineses*, all their neighbouring Nations are very Savage and Barbarous; But the present Emperour, who has a much better insight into foreign Affairs than the rest, has a considerable time ago, found out the effects of this Mistake. The *Jesuits* have imprinted into his Mind so advantageous an *Idea* of the *European* Kingdoms, and of some other Nations in the World; and by this continual Application to some of the best Works, as well as to Arts and Sciences flourish-

flourishing in *Europe*, he has been sufficiently convinc'd, that the *Chineses* are not the Onely in the World, who can boast of their being Famous in many Arts and Sciences.

This has been, in a great measure, the true Reason why this present Emperour has thought fit, to lay aside this preposterous Custom of the *Chinese* Nation, and to receive the Ambassadours of *Holland*, *Portugal*, and *Muscovy*, with all the marks of Respect and Civility; tho' at the same time, they were obliged to Accommodate themselves in this point to the antient Custom of this Empire, as to Treat concerning what they were to transact, with the Courts appointed for that purpose.

But this singular Wisdom and Conduct did never appear with such Lustre, than during these several intestine Commotions, which happened under his Reign.

The first and most Famous of all, was the Rebellion raised by one *Ousan-Gouei*, who, having brought a considerable number of *Tartars* into *China*, and thereby deserved the Title and Dignity of King, of Feudatary Prince of a certain Province, from the present Emperour's Father, at last entred into Cabals against the *Tartars*, with an Intention to drive them out of *China*.

He was at first so succesful, that in a little time, he made himself Master of one half of this vast Empire, without much Opposition, and it was next to a Mira-

Miracle, that the reſt eſcaped his Hands; the *Chineſes* declaring, wherever he came, for his Party; in compariſon of whom, the *Tartars* were but a Handfull of People, who were not able alone to ſtop the Current of his Victorious Arms. But ſuch was the Prudence and Conduct of this young Prince, who then was not above twenty years old, that what he wanted in Force, he ſupplied by his own Ability.

To ſpeak without Flattery, it was chiefly owing to this Prince, who managed all Matters in Perſon; it was, I ſay, owing to the wiſe Precautions he took with the Chief Governours of the Provinces, and other Military Officers among the *Chineſes*, that he not only kept in Obedience thoſe who had not had the Opportunity as yet to joyn with the Rebel *Ouſan-Gouei*, but alſo brought over a great many of the Revolted *Chineſes*.

'Tis true, he did not appear in Perſon at the Head of his Army's; but this was an effect of his Wiſdom, being ſufficiently convinc'd, that his Preſence was of Great Conſequence at *Peking*, to keep the Northern Princes in Obedience, and to diſperſe by his Royal Preſence theſe Factions, which were carried on in that City againſt his Intereſt, and which might otherwiſe have proved of more dangerous Conſequence, than the whole Force of *Ouſan-Gouei*.

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To be short, he acted in this Affair not like a young Prince, but with such precaution, that no more could have been expected from the most accomplished Politician. He was day and night present at the Councils, and ready at all times to dispatch his Orders according to the different Exigencies of Affairs, concerning which, and all the least Circumstances that attended it, he had constant Intelligence given him; it being the most dangerous that ever threatned the *Chinese* Empire; forasmuch as it proved the Source of many other Factions, which however, he happily suppressed before they came to any Maturity, by his prudent Conduct.

The first of these Factions was a Conspiracy among the Slaves of *Peking*, who being all *Chineses*, had agreed among themselves, to Murther all their Masters that were *Tartars* by Off-spring, in one Night; and the better to compass their Design, they were afterwards to set Fire to four or five places of the City. But there being so vast a number concern'd in this Conspiracy, as scarce to know one another, the same was by Accident discovered by several of the Accomplices, some days before it was to be put in Execution; whereupon the Emperour, having seized upon and punished with present Death some of the Ring-leaders, he broke the Neck of the whole Conspiracy in a few days, by granting a General Amnesty to the rest.

This Faction was ſoon after follcwed by another: For the Kings of *Canton* and *Fokien*, being likewiſe of the *Chineſe* Race, when they ſaw the *Tartars* embroil'd by the Revolt of *Ouſon Gouci*, did look upon this as the fitteſt Opportunity to ſhake off the *Tartarian* Yoak, and to make themſelves Sovereigns each in their own Province.

Much about the ſame time there revolted another King of the Race of *Mongo*, Chief of the Head branch of thoſe Princes deſcended from the *West-Tartarian* Emperours, who Reigned over *China* before the Imperial Family of *Taiming*; which is above three hundred years ago, and who, after they were chaſed from thence, regain'd the Imperial Throne a ſecond time, and reigned till the 30th year of this Age, when theſe Princes ruined themſelves by Inteſtine Diviſions.

For, the preſent Emperour's Grand-father, laying hold of this Opportunity to aſcend the Imperial Throne, knew ſo well how to foment theſe Quarrels, till he found means to reduce them, one after another, under his Obedience, not expecting even the Chief of the Family, who retained hitherto the Name of Emperour, and was forced by his own Subjects, to ſubmit like the reſt. But the *Tartars* of the Race of *Mantcheou*, to render their Subjection more ſpecious and eaſie, did, after the entire Conqueſt of *China*, beſtow the Title of King upon this Emperour,

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as well as upon several others of the most Potent Princes of the Family of *Mongo.*

Whilst the present Emperour was engaged against the three beforementioned Rebellious *Chinese* Princes or Kings, some Officers belonging to this Prince, who is Chief of the Principal Branch of the Family of *Mongo*, being come to *Peking*, and having observed, That the Place was not provided with any considerable Number of Troops, the Garrison consisting only of a few young, raw Soldiers, they did not fail to give Intelligence of it to their Master, who being encouraged to improve so favourable a Conjuncture, resolved to try his Fortune, whether he could recover his antient Right, and the Empire of *China.*

But whilst he was making the necessary Leagues with the other neighbouring Princes of the Race of *Mongo*, the thing could not be carried on with so much secrecy, but that it reached the Emperour's Ears, who with an incredible Resolution, sent immediately a small Body of Troops, composed partly of the Garrison of *Peking*, partly of those Quartered in the Province of *Leaotong*, bordering upon the Territories of the revolted Prince, against him, whereby the Enemy being bereaved of the Succours he expected from the other Princes his Allies, was forced, with what Forces he could bring together in haste of his own, to fight the Army of the Emperour, who were advanced to

the very heart of his Province, where he was entirely put to the Rout, and taken Prisoner in the pursuit, with his Brother and Children.

He made use of the same Method, and with the same Succefs upon many other Occasions, during the Civil War; for with that small number of Troops, who were entirely to his devotion, he always was succefsful against the Rebels, tho' they stood it out to the last with a great deal of Bravery.

Among the Heads of the Rebellion, even many, who did not stir, or had any share in these Commotions, were seiz'd and put to Death, with all their Children, without distinction of Age or Sex; pursuant to that most rigorous Constitution of the *Chineses*; according to which, Rebellion is punished in the ninth Generation, which was done with an Intention to extinguish the whole Race of a Rebellious Faction.

In the mean while, the Emperour, whose Nature is in no wise inclin'd to Cruelty, was so merciful to the Brothers of the Kings of *Canton* and *Fokien*, that he would not let them receive the least Damage either in their Persons or Estates, knowing them to have had no hand in the Rebellion. But, because he found himself under a necessity to put to Death some of the Kindred of *Ousan-Gouei*, that were as yet very young, he issued out a *Manifesto*, in which he protested, that it

was

was not according to his Inclinations, to put them to Death; but that he was constrained to yield to the Law of the Empire, and to the Advice of the Princes of the Blood, and of other Sovereign Courts of the Empire, who were all for maintaining the Force of this Law, to strike Terrour into the Subject against Rebellion, by the Dread of the worst of all the Punishments which can be inflicted upon the *Chineses*, which is to leave no Posterity behind them.

Thus the Emperour did not only reunite those Provinces with the Crown, which had shaken off the Yoak, but also those who were dignified with the Title of Kingdoms in favour of three Generals of the *Chinese* Army, who having embraced the Party of the *Tartars*, were very instrumental in the Conquest of *China*.

He had also the good Fortune, to exterminate the Remainders of those antient *Chineses*, who rather than submit to the *Tartarian* Yoak, when they first entred *China*, chose rather to follow that Famous Pyrate *Couesin*.

It was under the Reign of *CHUN-TCHI*, Father of the present Emperour, that this Pyrate attempted no less than the Conquest of the whole Empire, for which purpose, he was advanced with a very formidable Army, as far as the City of *Nanking*, which in all likelihood he would have been soon Master of, if it had not been Bravly defended by a certain *Tar-*

tarian Commander, who being ſenſible that the Fate of the Empire depended on the Preſervation of this Place, did, not only with a ſmall number of Troops, repulſe the Enemies in their ſeveral Attacks, but at laſt, alſo ſurpriſed the Pyrate and his Army, which he put to an entire Rout one Night, when they were overwhelmed with Drink, having the day before celebrated the Birth-day of their General.

This was the ſame Famous Pyrate, who, after he had loſt his whole Army in this Occaſion, retired with his few Remainders to the Iſle of *Formoſa*, from whence he chaſed the *Hollanders*, and eſtabliſhed himſelf there. His Son maintain'd himſelf after his Father's Death, upon that Iſland, till the preſent Emperour of *China*, forced him to ſubmit to his Obedience, with all his Subjects, except a few, who retired to the Kingdom of *Kamboya*.

Thus it may be ſaid without flattery, That the preſent Emperour, *CANG-HI*, has acquired more Glory in ſubduing ſo many Rebels, and maintaining himſelf in the Throne, againſt ſo many dangerous Enemies, than the Famous *Amavang* his Uncle, and Guardian to his Father, did, by the Conqueſt of the whole Empire. For the Conqueſt of *China* was not very dearly bought by the *Tartars*, the *Chineſes* ſtriving to deſtroy one another at that time, and the braveſt among them ſiding

with

with the *Tartars* against their Country-men.

The Fire of Rebellion being thus extinguished, and Tranquility restored to the Empire, the next care the Emperour took, was to re-establish a good Order, and suppress such Abuses as were crept into the Government, during the Licenciousness of these intestine Wars, in lieu of which, he endeavoured to re-establish the antient Vigour of the Laws, and introduce Plenty among his Subjects.

But as he knew, that nothing could so much conduce to the encompassing of this Design, than if Ministers of known Ability and Probity were put in Offices of Trust, both in the Court and Provinces; it was his main Study to chuse such as were best qualified for that purpose, and and to encourage such in their Duty as were in Offices before.

It is to be observed, that the Constitution of the *Chinese* Government is absolutely Monarchical, all depending on One single Head. The inferiour Officers have their Dependance entirely on their Superiours; The Governour of each City regulates alone all Affairs belonging to the City under his Jurisdiction; and so does each Governour in his Province. This Form of Government, which in it self considered, is very perfect, requires however, That the Governours of Cities and Provinces, who are invested with the Royal Authority, be of such approved

Integrity and Probity, as to be Proof against all manner of Corruption.

It is almost incredible, what effectual Care the present Emperour takes in the Choice of his *Mandarins*, especially those of the Provinces and Cities; and with how watchful an eye he over-looks all their Transactions. He does not rest satisfied with the Account he receives from the Court of the *Mandarins*, and with the Persons that are recommended by them, but he has every where his Spyes, who furnish him with secret Intelligence; from whence it comes, that he often chuses quite otherwise, and contrary to their Recommendations; his Chief aim being to advance every one according to his Deserts. For, whenever he observes in any one of his Ministers a more than ordinary Capacity, he never fails to give him particular Marks of his Favour, by bestowing upon him some of the most Eminent and Considerable Offices: On the other hand, if they make the least false steps in the Management of their Trust, this is sufficient to make them lose their Office, if it reaches the Emperour's Ears; But, if any one be convicted of Bribery, he is sure to meet with a Prince who is inexorable in that Point, and without the least Respect to his Degree or Quality, he loses not only his Place, but is Exemplarily punished besides.

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From hence it is, that we have ſeen ſuch continual Changes among the *Mandarins* of all degrees. For, within the firſt four Years, whilſt we tarried at *Peking*, moſt of the Governours and Vice-Roys of the Provinces, as well as the Chief Members of the ſeveral *Tribunals* or Courts of *Peking* were diſplaced; for the Emperour keeps ſo watchful an Eye over them, that it is next to an impoſſibility that any of their Faults ſhould long eſcape his Knowledge.

We were no ſooner arrived at this Court, but we ſaw four *Calao*, two *Tartars*, and two *Chineſes*, depoſed from their Offices at once; as was likewiſe the Preſident of the firſt Tribunal of the Six, which are the Supream Courts of the Empire, tho' he was Father-in-law to the eldeſt Son of the Emperour. At our very firſt coming to the Royal Pallace, we were ſhewn one of theſe beforementioned *Calao*, ſitting near one of the Gates, and ſupplying the Place of a Common Sergeant of the Guards; the Emperour, for his Mortification, having condemn'd him to this Employment.

Much about the ſame time, two or three *Viceroys* were brought to *Peking*, one of them in Chains, without the leaſt Attendances, and being afterwards convicted of having exacted Great Sums from the Province under his Juriſdiction, he was condemn'd to Death, the other Two eſcaped with looſing their Offices, their

Crimes

Crimes being not of so high a Nature.

In the next following Year, the *Vice-Roy* of the Province of *Tche-Kiang*, who was always a professed Enemy of the Christian Religion, and did with all his Might oppose our Stay in *China*, being accused of Malversation, was condemned by the Emperour himself, not only to be deprived of his Office, but also to a perpetual Banishment into *Tartary*.

Thus this Prince has laid so strict an Obligation upon himself, to conform his Reign in all Respects to the Laws of Equity, and to advance none but Deserving Persons to any Places of Trust, that there is scarce one Instance to be given, when either out of Partiality or Self-Interest he has acted contrary to this so laudable a Resolution.

Neither is it only in this particular Care of chusing well qualified *Mandarins*, and his Vigilancy over their Actions, that the Emperour's Goodness to his People is Conspicuous; whenever there happens any publick Calamity in his Realm, his Compassion and Inquietude are most evident Proofs, that he looks upon himself rather a Father, than a Sovereign of his People.

Of this we saw our selves, several Instances in two Years. For, there happening a great Scarcity, occasioned for want of Rain, in some of the Provinces, which had reduced the Inhabitants to the utmost degree of Misery; this Prince was

ſo ſenſibly touched with their Calamity, that he not only remitted the whole Annual Tribute, which amounts to betwixt thirty and forty Millions of Livres, and cauſed the publick Granaries to be ſet open; but he likewiſe ordered both Corn and Money to be diſtributed among the moſt Neceſſitous of the People.

And the more effectually to ſupply the Neceſſities of the Poor, he gave leave to ſuch of the richer Sort, as had qualified themſelves by taking the neceſſary Degrees for *Mandarins*, and had undergone the Examen, to buy thoſe Offices, and to furniſh a certain Quantity of Corn, to be ſent to theſe places, where they ſtood moſt in need of it; And, becauſe there flock'd great Numbers of theſe Miſerable Wretches daily to *Peking*, in hopes of finding ſome Means of Subſiſtance there, the Emperour found out a way, at once to ſupply their Neceſſities, and to do ſomething for the publick Good; For he ordered them to be employed in re-building thoſe Tribunals that are within the Precinct of the Court, by which means he alſo prevented thoſe Diſorders which are the ordinary Effects of an idle Life.

Upon the occaſion of any publick Calamity, he debars himſelf of his ordinary Divertiſements, which elſe he frequently takes at one of his two Royal Country Seats, not far from *Peking*. We have ſeen him, during all this Time of that Scarcity of Corn, keep cloſe in his

Pallace,

Pallace, without appearing in publick, unlefs when he went with his whole Court to the *Temple*, dedicated to the *Sun*, there, (according to antient Cuftom obferved upon fuch like Occafions among the *Chinefes*) to pray for Rain, by publick Prayers and Sacrifices, which he offers to the Supream Lord of Heaven and Earth; being much more enlightned in this point, than moft of the Modern *Chinefes*, who being in this fundamental point of Religion, degenerated from their Anceftors (as they are in many other points), do adore the Material Heavens in lieu of that Supream Intelligence, which governs the Univerfe with an infinite Power, Wifdom and Goodnefs.

As often as this Prince takes his progrefs into fome of his Provinces (which he does from time to time) on purpofe to be inform'd concerning the true Condition of his People, and in what manner they are Govern'd by the *Mandarins*; it is his Cuftom to appear with a more Affable and Familiar Air than at other times, and to permit even the meaneft Workmen or Peafant to approach his perfon. He fpeaks to them with fo much Affability and Sweetnefs, as Charms them to the Heart; and among other Queftions, which he commonly askes them, he feldom fails to ask, *Whether they are fatisfied with their prefent Governours.* If he finds any real Occafion of Complaint againft any one of the *Mandarins*, he is fure to be dif-

poffeffed

possessed of his place immediately ; as on the other hand, if his Conduct is recommended by the general Approbation of the People, this is a sure step to higher Dignities.

It is about seven years ago, when the Emperour in one of his Progresses to the Southern Provinces, pass'd through *Hovingan*, which is a large City in the Province of *Nan-king* , and the ordinary place of Residence of the *Tsong-ho*, or Superintendant General of all the Waters, Rivers, and Canals of the Empire, which is one of the most Considerable places without the Court. This *Tsong-ho*, being accused of Malversation in his Office, and upon the point of being displaced, besides the paying of a Great Fine ; the people of this City presented a Petition to the Emperour, in favour of the said *Tsong-ho*, who had no sooner perused the Petition, much in Commendation of this *Mandarin*, but without taking any further Information, he restored him immediately to his Office ; as an evident Mark, that nothing could be able to make a more sensible Impression upon his Mind in respect of the *Mandarins*, than if they treated the people in such a manner, as to be considered by them rather like Fathers than Governours.

Though it is beyond all Dispute, that the Emperour of *China*, is the most potent Prince in the World, both in respect of his vast Revenues, and the great extent and

and Goodneſs of his Territories; nevertheleſs is he a great Enemy to Luxury, in reſpect of his own perſon; being in this point an exact Obſerver of one of the Fundamental Laws of the *Chineſe* Monarchy, which forbids all exceſſive Expences in the Great Ones, and the Prince himſelf, unleſs it be with relation to the publick Good.

Not but that the Expences of his Houſhold ſurpaſs without all Contradiction, much thoſe of the moſt Magnificent Courts of *Europe*, by reaſon of that almoſt innumerable Multitude of Officers and others, who daily have their Subſiſtance from Court; But in reſpect of his own Perſon, he is the moſt Exact pattern of Frugality and Modeſty. 'Tis true, he is Serv'd at his Table in Gold and Silver, according to his Grandeur, but in other Matters not regulated by Cuſtom, he never ſhews the leaſt Inclination to Nicery; being contented with ordinary Diſhes; and ſuch is his Sobriety, that there cannot be one Inſtance given when he committed the leaſt Exceſs in that kind.

His Pallace is of a vaſt Circumference, reſembling in Bigneſs a conſiderable City; and to look upon the many large Structures which it contains, and which are all covered with Tyles varniſhed with a Gold Colour, affording a moſt Glorious ſight, it is no difficult matter to judge that this Pallace was intended to be the Seat of a Great Monarch; But as for the Appart-

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ments and their Furnitures, even not excepting the Emperour's Lodgings, their Chief Ornament is, that they are kept clean and neat, there being nothing to be seen but some Pictures, a little Guilding, and plain Silk Hangings, of which indeed there is great plenty, because they are so common in *China*.

He has built himself a Country-house, about two Leagues distant from *Peking*, where he takes frequently his Divertisements, and retires thither for a good part of the Year. But besides two Great Cisterns and some Canals, which have been made by his Orders, there is nothing to be seen there that bears the least proportion to the Magnificence of so Rich and Great a Monarch. Every thing indeed is very Neat; but in respect of both the Structure it self, and in respect of the Gardens, and the whole Design of the Place, it does not approach to some Country Houses belonging to some Persons of Quality about *Paris*.

His Modesty appears as well in his Habit as in all other Things which serve for his proper Use. For, his Cloaths, unless it be some Sables and Ermins, which as they are very common in this Court, so he makes use of them for the Winter Season for Linings, are of a plain Silk, which is so common all over *China*, that every body, unless the poorest Sort, makes use of them.

In

In a Rainy day you ſhall ſee him ſometimes dreſs'd in a Wollen Caſſock, ſuch as is worn among the ordinary Sort of people in *China*; ſo, we have ſeen him ſometimes in the Summer appear in a Habit made of nothing but Callicoe, which is the ordinary Wear of the *Chineſes* in their Houſes. Unleſs it be upon ſome Feſtival, the only thing which is remarkable and magnificent in his Habit, is a very large Pearl, which during the Summer Seaſon he wears upon his Bonnet, made after the *Tartarian* Faſhion.

His Chair in which he is carried both within and without the Precinct of the Pallace, when he has no mind to go on Horſeback, is no more than a kind of a Litter, made of ordinary Wood Varniſh'd over, adorned on the Corners with Copper plates, or Guild Carvings of Wood. He appears no more Magnificent when he goes abroad on Horſe-back, the Trappings of his Horſe having no other Ornament than a pair of Stirrups of Iron very neatly guilt, and the Reins of his Bridle being of yellow Silk.

To comprehend all in few words, there appears nothing in any thing which belongs to his Perſon, which has the leaſt Reſemblance to that Pride and Pomp, which is ſo much affected by the other *Aſiatick* Princes; and it may be truly ſaid of him, That he is ſenſible, that the true Luſtre and Grandeur of a Prince does not conſiſt ſo much in the exterior Pomp, as in

their

their own Vertues; especially since it must be confess'd, That, as his Treasury is vastly Rich, his Empire abounding in all manner of Things, and the *Chineses* naturally inclin'd to Industry and all sort of Handy-works, he might with as much ease exceed all the other Princes of *Asia* in Pomp and Magnificence, as his Empire has the preference before theirs both in Extent and Riches.

But to let the World see, that it is not out of Avarice or any sordid Temper of his own, that he thus avoids all Profusedness and Luxury in Matters relating to his own Person; he shews himself as Liberal and Magnificent in any thing which has respect to the Publick, as he is Sparing in his private Expences. He is not prodigal of Millions, when they come in Competition with the Welfare of the Empire He do's not grudge to bestow Immense Sums in repairing the publick Edifices, to keep the Rivers, Channels, Bridges, and Banks, and such like Things, which serve for the Conveniency of Commerce, and Ease of the People, in good Repair: From whence it is easie to judge, that, if he retrenches something from his superfluous private Expences; he Husbands it for the Benefit of the publick Good, in order to employ it for the more exigent Occasions of the State, the Chief aim of this Prince being, to be considered by his Subjects as their Father, not their Master.

Of this he gave a most Eminent proof about five years ago. The greatest part of his Soldiers (of whom there is a great Number at *Peking*) were reduced to great Extremity by reason of their Debts, which they had contracted from time to time, the greatest part of their Pay being scarce sufficient to pay the Interest of what they ow'd. This could not be imputed to any thing else, but the Ill-husbandry of the Soldiers themselves, or at least of their Father's; For their Pay is both very good, and exactly paid every Month; and when they first settled themselves at *Peking*, they had Houses, Grounds, and Slaves allotted them, sufficient for an honourable Maintenance, every one proportionably to his Quality. Neverthelefs the Emperour was no sooner inform'd concerning their present Condition, but being touched with Compassion, he ordered immediately their Accompts to be Stated, and to be paid out of his Treasury, the whole amounting to above sixteen Millions of Livres.

And to prevent the like for the future, he issued his Orders, That no private person should presume to advance any Money to the Soldiers upon their Pay, under penalty of loosing the Debt; but to supply at the same time the Occasions of the Soldiers in case of Necessity; he commanded, that upon any necessitous Occasion Money should be advanced them out of the Treasury, to a certain limited Sum,

Sum, to be deducted by little and little out of their Pay, without putting them under the necessity of paying Interest-Money, or rather Extortions, as are usually paid at *Peking*, when people are droven to the necessity of Borrowing Money.

About the same time, a Petition being presented to him from the *Hia* or ordinary *Mandarins* of his Guards (of whom there are betwixt seven and eight Hundred) and from some other Officers belonging to his Houshold, That they were much in Debt, and begg'd Relief from His Majesty; he ordered the Officers of his Houshold eight hundred Livres a-piece, and four hundred to each of such of the inferior Officers, as were unable to pay their Debts, and whose Duty it is to Attend his Person in the progresses he makes throughout the Empire. This Sum which amounted in the whole to above two Millions of Livres, he ordered to be paid out of his privy Purse; because, said he, *It would be unjust to lay the Burthen of these Debts, which have been contracted by my Domestick Servants, upon the Publick Treasury.*

This Extraordinary Generosity of the Emperour, had very near proved the Occasion of a Revolt among those of the *Chinese* Horse, who being composed of Slaves, as they could not contract any Debts, so they had had no share in the Emperour's Liberality. It is to be observed, that there is a considerable num-

ber of theſe Horſemen entertain'd among the *Tartars*, and, that as their Pay is very good, ſo they for the moſt part, maintain thereby their Families. Near five thouſand of theſe Slaves aſſembled themſelves near the Royal Pallace, in order to preſent a Petition to the Emperour, in which they begg'd to be included in the Number of thoſe that were to receive ſuch ample Marks of his Bounty.

There being not one among all the Courtiers there preſent, who ſhewed any Inclination to prefer their Petition to His Majeſty, they remained for ſome time in an humble poſture, bare-headed and upon their Knees, in the Great outward Court of the Pallace ; But being ſoon after inform'd by ſome that paſs'd that Way, That the Emperour was gone to take a Walk in the Garden behind the Pallace, they ſurrounded the Garden, and with great Clamour, deſired His Majeſty to extend his Bounty to them as well as the other Soldiers, they having been ready upon all Occaſions to ſerve him, and ſacrifice their Lives for his Intereſt, with the ſame Zeal as the reſt. But the Emperour taking another way, did, as if he had not heard or underſtood their Meaning ; whereupon ſome time afterwards, word being brought to the Emperour, That they had forced the firſt Gate that leads to the Garden, inſpite of the Guards ; who were not able to reſiſt their Number, he commanded eight of the Ring-leaders to

be seised instantly, and the rest to be beaten out of the Court with Sticks; which being done accordingly, this mutinous Rabble was dispersed in an instant.

But as His Majesty had by this last Act of Generosity, given very ample demonstrations of his Affection and Tenderness for the Soldiery in General; so, upon this Occasion, he resolved to let them see, That he would not suffer himself to be abused, and that he knew how to punish their Insolence. For which Reason, these eight Mutineers were ordered to be tryed before the Criminal Court, as well as their Masters, pursuant to an antient Custom among the *Tartars*, according to which the Masters bare a Share in the punishment inflicted upon their Slaves, in case of any Misbehaviour, the better to oblige them to keep a watchful eye over their Slaves, that they may not transgress upon others.

By this Court the eight Slaves were the next day condemned to Death, and their Masters to a perpetual Banishment into *Tartary*.

The Emperour however extended his Mercy towards them in mitigating this Sentence, which was only executed upon one, who having been the Chief Ringleader of this Mutiny, was beheaded the same day before Noon, and his Master, who was one of the *Mandarins* of the Emperour's own Guards, lost his place, and was banished into the remotest parts of *Tartary*.

The other ſeven eſcaped with being ſoundly Whipt, and as a further Puniſhment were forced to carry, for three Months after about their Necks the *Chineſe Cangve*, which is nothing elſe but two thick Boards joyn'd together in the middle, like our Pillory Boards, of about three foot Square, and near eighty pound Weight.

Their Maſters were Graciouſly pardon'd by the Emperour, as well as the other Soldiers, and their principal Commanders, who threw themſelves at His Majeſty's feet, excuſing their Fault in not preventing the Deſign of theſe Mutineers, and asking his Pardon, ready to ſubmit themſelves to any Puniſhment he ſhould think fit to inflict upon them for the neglect of their Duty. Thus this Great Prince, knowing how to keep an equal Ballance betwixt Mercy and Severity, makes himſelf both beloved and fear'd by his Subjects, who thereby are kept under a moſt ſtrict Obligation of performing their Duty.

As he is in his own Perſon the greateſt Enemy of Idleneſs and Lazineſs; but the greateſt Admirer of Buſineſs, without being the leaſt ſparing of his own Perſon, ſo it is his Chiefeſt Study to prevent his Subjects; but eſpecially the *Tartars* of the Race of *Mantcheou*, from being enſnared by the Luxurious Life of the *Chineſes*, being ſenſible, that if they once were brought to tred in the footſteps of the *Chineſes* as to this Point, it would be a very difficult

Task

Task for them to maintain themselves in *China*, which they Conquered with a Handful of Men; only, because they are inured to all manner of Hardships, as their Enemies were swallowed up in Luxury, which had rendred them quite Effeminate.

'Tis for this Reason that the Emperour, who is a great Master in the Politicks of this Government, sends very rarely any of the *Tartars* as *Mandarins* to the Southern Provinces of the Empire, where they are more addicted to this Vice than in other Parts; and, if he is sometimes obliged to send some thither, he recalls them as soon as possibly he can. 'Tis for the same Reason of State, that he goes so frequently abroad a Hunting; and that almost every year he takes once, if not twice, a Progress into the Mountainous parts of *Tartary*.

For, his Guards and Officers of the Houshold, as well as most of the Great Men of the Court, or Chief Commanders of his Forces, and other *Mandarins* of the Court of *Peking*, being obliged by their Places (at least each in his Turn,) to attend the Emperour's Person wherever he goes; it is upon these Occasions, that by his Example, he animates them to endure the Fatigues of the Campaign, and to follow him wherever he leads the Way, where he is sure never to be sparing of his Person.

For in these Progresses you shall see him appear in a very common Habit, sometimes a whole day on Horseback, traversing the Mountains and Forrests, so that he tires sometimes nine or ten Horses in a day; and oftentimes, according to the disposition of the Ground, does not grudge to march on foot for a considerable time.

When he returns at Night to his Tent, he is so far from taking any Repose, that he first dispatches all Matters before him, in the same manner, as if he were in his Pallace at *Peking*. He peruses and takes an Account of all Petitions laid before him, without delay, which oftentimes takes up good part of the Night, so that he spares these hours from his Sleep, which he has employed in the Day-time for his Diversion. And it is observable, that he leads this sort of Life not for four or five days only, but sometimes for three or four Months together, without Intermission.

Father *Gerbillon*, who among all the *Jesuits* attends him most frequently in his Progresses, has attested to me; That he has seen him often all covered with Dust and Sweat, continue the Chase, without changing his Linen or Cloaths after they came to the appointed Place of rest; and that he has seen him for several Hours together, sitting and exposing himself to the Heat of the Rays of the Sun, without an *Umbrello*, which constantly attend him wherever he stirs, in great Numbers.

I have heard the ſame Author, *Gerbillon*, relate it to others of our Society, That in one of his Progreſſes, at a great diſtance from *Peking*, the Emperour and his Court were forced to pitch their Tents in a place where it was very difficult to be ſupplied with any other Proviſions, but what the Place afforded, ſo, that moſt of his Retinue were forced to be contented with Beef and Mutton, of which you meet with good Store in *Tartary*. The Emperour, to let them ſee, that at this Juncture, he could live and be ſatisfied with what the reſt had, ordered, That nothing but Beef and Mutton ſhould be Serv'd upon his Table, till ſuch time that they receiv'd new Supplies of Proviſions, ſufficient for all the reſt of his Attendance,

By theſe Means he encourages his Subjects to uſe themſelves to undergo all ſorts of Fatigues, being never ſparing of his own Perſon upon ſuch like Occaſions; as on the other hand, he is ſure to lay ſome Mortification or other upon thoſe, whom he finds addicted to an Idle and Lazy Life.

For which reaſon, to prevent the Children of the Chief Men of his Court, of the *Tartarian* Race, or of thoſe *Chineſes*, who have eſpouſed their Intereſt, from embracing an idle Life, he makes it his conſtant Cuſtom to prefer them to ſuch places as are not to be Officiated without a great deal of Trouble,

So soon as they are of a fit Age to go abroad, he makes them take care and lead his Hounds, when he goes a Hunting; others he employs in managing his Hawks and other Birds of Prey. Some are employed in boiling Tea and other Dishes for his Use, and in Serving them at his Table; some in making Bows and Arrows for his own and his Son's Use. Those who are to be preferr'd before others, by reason of their Great Quality, or on whom the Emperour intends to bestow some particular Favour, are made *Mandarins* of his Guards, who lead a very Toilsome Life, being obliged by their Station to be upon the Guard both Day and Night, at least one day in six, to attend every Morning early at Court, and to follow the Emperour in his Progresses.

As they are commonly chosen out of those who have considerable Fortunes to expect from their Parents or Kindred; so they are the better qualified to bear the Expences of these Journeys, which are very chargeable, and would be the ruine of People of Moderate Estates, by reason of the great number of Horses and Servants they are obliged to carry along with them, when they are a Hunting in remote places, where meeting sometimes with inhabitable Desarts, they are forced to provide themselves aforehand with all manner of Necessaries for their Sustenance and Conveniency.

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Besides, that thereby these young Gentlemen are inured to all manner of Fatigues and Hardships, the Emperour likewise reaps this Advantage by their constant Attendance upon his Person, to meet with frequent Opportunities to approve their Ability; according to which they are afterwards Advanced to the most Eminent Dignities in the Empire.

All these beforementioned Qualifications, would questionless be judged more than sufficient among other Nations, to place this Prince among the most Famous Hero's; But the *Chineses*, who measure the Ability and Qualifications of Great Persons to be entrusted with the Management of publick Affairs, by their Skill and Knowledge in all manner of Arts and Sciences, would scarce look upon him, (as they do) as one of the Greatest Monarchs that ever ascended the *Chinese* Throne, if he were not as well Accomplished in this, as in other Matters.

It is without question, for no other reason, than to conform himself to the predominant *Genius* of the *Chinese* Nation, that he applied himself with so much Assiduity to the Study of all the Learning and Sciences in vogue among the *Chineses*, that there are few Books of Note in that Language, but what he has taken the pains to peruse.

He has got a great part of the Works of *Confucius* by heart; these being considered among the *Chineses*, as the Originals

nals of all their Sacred Books, and reverenced as such. To attain to a more perfect understanding of all the most difficult Passages therein contained, he has caused certain Commentaries to be made upon them for his own Use, both in the *Chinese* and *Tartarian* Languages, by the most Able Doctors of the Empire; many of whom were employed for ten or twelve Years together, to bring this Work to perfection; and at the same time to explain the Text to the Emperour. The better to shew his Veneration for this most antient Doctrine of the *Chineses*, he did compose the Prefaces himself, which were put before each of these Commentaries, and published by his Authority.

He likewise caused the Universal History of *China*, to be Translated into the *Tartarian* Language; and the first Translation not being so exact in all its parts as he desired, he ordered a second to be made, which as it was more perfect, so it was augmented with some additional Notes, for the better understanding of some difficult passages. He is so absolute a Master of the whole Body of this History, that, notwithstanding its vast extent, you can scarce mention any passage in it, but what occurs immediately to his Memory.

Of this we had the opportunity to observe a most remarkable Instance about six years ago. The Emperour had ordered a certain Inscription to be made upon the Tomb of his Uncle on the Mothers side,

who

who had not long before lost his Life in a Battle fought in *Tartary* against the King of *Elath*, who is one of the *West-Tartarian* Princes, and had with a considerable Force invaded the Frontiers of *China*.

The Doctor who was pitch'd upon to compose it, and who was look'd upon as one of the best of the Imperial College, had; by what mistake, I know not, made a comparison betwixt this Uncle of the Emperour and a Famous General among the *Chineses*, who in effect, had deservedly acquired the Reputation of a Brave and Great General; but, who besides other ill Qualities, was stigmatiz'd for want of Loyalty to his Prince: As for the rest, the whole was extreamly well done, so it met with the general Approbation of all the Doctors, who were to revise it, and of the President of the College himself, who being at the same time President of the Tribunal of Rites, did present it to the Emperour, who always takes notice of any thing of Moment.

But what had escaped the Sagacity of so many Learned Doctors, who are considered here as Oracles of all the Sciences known among the *Chineses*, and who by their Profession, ought to be particularly well vers'd in History, was at first sight discovered by the Emperour. For, this Prince, recalling to his Memory, beyond what all the rest had done, the Defects charged upon this General in the *Chinese* History, who had lived above two thou-

sand

ſand years before; and being ſenſible that this Compariſon would rather tend to the Diſhonour of his Uncle, than to tranſmit his Great Name to poſterity; after he had ſtrictly examined all the Circumſtances of the Matter, he reſolved to puniſh this Overſight in the Doctor, who had been the Author of the Inſcription, by Baniſhing him into the Province of *Leaotong*; and the Preſident, who had the Reviſing of it, with the Loſs of his Place.

The preſent Emperour is likewiſe well verſ'd both in the Rhetorick and Poetry of the *Chineſes*, being a nice Judge both of the *Chineſe* and *Tartarian* Languages; both which he writes in with the greateſt Exactneſs imaginable, and excels in Politeneſs of his Speech, the moſt refined of all his Courtiers. To be ſhort; there is not any kind of Learning in *China*, but what he is a Great Maſter of. He is very Curious in his Library, which is compoſed of all the Valuable Books to be met with in the whole Empire; and many of approved Ability are employed, to ſearch in all places after good Books, out of which the Emperour frequently chuſes ſuch, as he judges fit to have a place in his Library.

Beſides theſe, there are many others, whoſe conſtant Buſineſs it is, to Tranſlate the beſt *Chineſe* Books into the *Tartarian* Language; which is a great Addition to the laſt, and a vaſt Advantage eſpecially to the *Tartars* of *Mantchou*, as well as to the Miſſiona-

Missionaries, they being not well vers'd in the *Chinese* Characters, by reason of their great variety, could otherwise not attain to the Knowledge of the *Chinese* Language, and consequently of their best Books, without applying themselves for several years to that Study, which by the Conveniency of these Translations, (easie to be understood in comparison of the *Chinese* Language) they apprehend without any great difficulty.

The Arts and Sciences of the *Chineses*, are not the only Delight of this Prince; for as he judges with the greatest Nicety and Exactness of every thing he thinks worth his taking notice of; so there is not any Science in *Europe*, that ever came to his Knowledge, but he shewed a great Inclination to be instructed in it. The first Occasion which had a more than ordinary Influence upon his Mind, happened (as he was pleased to tell us himself) upon a Difference arisen betwixt *Yang quansien*, the Famous Author of the last Persecution in *China*, and Father *Ferdinand Verbiest*, of the Society of *Jesus*. The Dispute was concerning the *Chinese* Astronomy, which this Impostor maintain'd to be very perfect, and not to want any Reformation from the *European* Astronomers, tho' it was well known, that he understood neither. 'Tis true, he was made President of the Mathematical Tribunal; but for his Advancement to this Dignity, he was not so much beholding to his Ability,

lity, as to his perversed Zeal for the antient Rites of his Couutry and Religion; in opposition to those who endeavoured to spread the Christian Doctrine among the *Chineses.*

Notwithstanding which, most of the Chief *Mandarins* of the Court, who were not well vers'd in Matters of this Nature, and prepossessed with a good Opinion of things in relation to their Native Country. Those also who were Members of the Mathematical Tribunal, jealous of their own Reputaticn; and looking upon it as a signal Affront to see themselves Corrected by Foreigners, did with all their Main and Might espouse *Yang-quang sien's* Quarrel. Some few Persons of Authority and Credit there were, who, without the least regard to their own Interest, frequently declared in all places wherever there was the least Opportunity, That the Calculations of the Ephemerides made by the *European* Fathers Missionaries, were always conformable to the most exact Observations they could make; whereas on the contrary, the Calculations of the *Chineses*, founded upon the Principles of their Astronomy, proved always defective,

The Emperour was then scarce seventeen years of Age; and there was at that time a grand Combination of all the Tribunals against the *European* Astronomy, who in a General Assembly, held for that purpose, resolved to request the

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Emperour to give a Decisive Sentence in Favour of the *Chinese* Astronomy. But he proceeded with more Caution in this Matter, than could be expected from his Age; For being resolved to take cognizance of the Matter himself, and to stop the Mouth of all the vain Pretenders to this Noble Science, he sent both to Father *Verbiest* and *Yang-quang sien*, who appearing in the Council to give an account of what was to be proposed to them, he asked them in publick, whether they could by some Experriment or other make it appear to the Eye, which of these two Astronomers was the most exact in its Calculations? *Yang-quang sien* stood mute, but Father *Verbiest* offered to the Emperour, That if His Majesty would appoint a Stick to be given of what length he pleased, that he and *Yang-quang sien* would endeavour to determine exactly in what place the Shadow of it must fall the next day at Noon. The Emperour having approved of this Proposition, and fixed a certain Stick, Father *Verbiest* immediately went to work, and by his Calculation demonstrated in what place the Shadow must fall precisely at Noon the next day. Father *Verbiest's* Calculation having been fully proved by the Event, and *Yang-quang-sien* not being able to calculate it, or to give any other Ocular demonstration of what was proposed to him, the Emperour declared in favour of the *European* Astronomy.

Soon after he ordered ſeveral more demonſtration to be made, which of theſe two Calculations was the moſt proper for the Ephemerides and Obſervations of the Ecclipſes; and which His Majeſty cauſed to be preſent, not only the *Mandarins* of the Tribunal of Rites, but alſo ſeveral of the Great Men of his Court, in whom he confided moſt, and from whom he expected to receive an exact Account of every thing that ſhould be tranſacted in this Affair. Accordingly all theſe Obſervations having been found conformable in all reſpects to the *European* Calculations, the Emperour commanded that they ſhould be received, and made uſe of in *China*, according to the Tranſlation made by Father *Adam Shall*, into the *Chineſe* Language, under the laſt Emperour's Reign, which accordingly was put in execution, and continues thus to this day.

As this Tryal of Skill in the Mathematicks was the firſt Occaſion that introduced the Father Miſſionaries into the Emperour's acquaintance; ſo from that time, he always ſhew'd a great inclination to be inſtructed in the Mathematical Sciences, which in effect, are in great Eſteeem among the *Chineſes*. It is to be admired, that, being then of Age, which Princes and Great Perſonages ſeldom are ſeen to addict to Study, he did apply himſelf to it with ſo much Aſſiduity, that he made it his Chiefeſt Delight, ſacrificing all his ſpare Hours to this Study.

Du-

During the ſpace of two Years, Father *Verbieſt* inſtructed him in the Uſefulneſs of the beſt of the Mathematical Inſtruments, and in what elſe was moſt Curious in Geometry, the Statique, and Aſtronomy; for which purpoſe he wrote ſeveral Treatiſes. It was alſo about the ſame time, that he took firſt to our Muſick, under the Tuition of Father *Peyrera*, who not only compoſed an entire Treatiſe of Muſick, but alſo cauſed ſeveral *European* Inſtruments to be made for the Emperour's uſe; upon ſome of which, he taught him to play ſome Tunes.

The civil Commotions, which happened not long after, did ſomewhat interrupt, but not ſuppreſs his firſt Attempts of this kind. For, he employed ſome of his ſpare Hours, (notwithſtanding his continual Fatigues and Buſineſs, the effects of theſe remarkable Revolutions which happened in *China*) to the repetition of theſe things he had learned before; and the Flames of theſe Inteſtine Broils, being happily extinguiſhed by his Prudence; and all his Subjects, both of the *Chineſe* and *Tartarian* Race, enjoying the Fruits of Peace and Tranquility, by the Peace concluded about ſeven or eight years ago, with the *Muſcovites*; it was then that this Prince began to give freſh demonſtrations of his Deſire to be inſtructed in the *European* Sciences.

He did the Honour to us four *Jesuits*, Missionaries then at *Peking*, to receive our Instructions, sometimes in the *Chinese*, sometimes in the *Tartarian* Language; but, as the *Tartarian* is not so difficult as the *Chinese*, the Emperour being inform'd, that Father *Gerbillon* and I, in about eight Months time, had made so much Advancement in it, as to be understood tolerably well; he was pleased to make use of us, to explain to him the Principles of these Sciences, in the *Tartarian* Language. The better to accomplish our selves, he assigned us certain Masters for a Month together, who taught us every day in the Tribunal of the Great Masters of the Pallace.

Much about the same time, Father *Anthony Thomas*, did give him further Instructions concerning the Use of the best Mathematical Instruments, in the *Chinese* Language, and the practical Part of Geometry and Arithmatick, the principles of which he had formerly been taught by Father *Verbiest*. He would also have us explain him the Elements of *Euclid* in the *Tartarian* Language, being desirous to be well instructed in them, as looking upon them to be the Foundation, upon which to build the rest.

That every thing might be done with as much Ease and Conveniency as could be wish'd for, he assigned us a certain large Appartment in the Pallace belonging to the late Emperour, his Father's Lodgings; where,

where, he himſelf uſed frequently to dine, and paſs many Hours in the Day, before we were well in poſſeſſion of it. Here we were furniſhed plentifully with every thing we ſtood in need of, and that in a moſt obliging manner in the World. For every Morning early, we were attended, and carried to the Pallace, by his own Servants and Horſes, and were in the ſame manner conducted back to our Lodgings every Night. Two *Mandarins* of his Houſhold, well vers'd in both Languages, were appointed on purpoſe to Aſſiſt us in our Works, and as many Scribes as we pleaſed, to write every thing fair. There ſcarce paſs'd a day, but we were call'd in to the Emperour, who heard our Leſſons with a great deal of Attention, and oftentimes he would beſtow whole Hours together in our Company, to hear and repeat our Explications; to make the Figures himſelf, and ask many Queſtions concerning what remain'd as yet doubtful; and when we had given our Reſolutions, both by way, and Mouth, and in Writing, he would beſtow much of his leiſure Time, to make his Repetitions in private.

He did not neglect at the ſame time to exerciſe himſelf frequently in the Calculations and Uſe of Mathematical Inſtruments, and in the re-iterated Repetitions of the chiefeſt Propoſitions of *Euclid*, the better to imprint into his Mind their Demonſtration; and by this extraordinary Appli-

cation, he made the Elements of *Euclid* familiar to himſelf in five or ſix Months, that it was impoſſible to ſhew him any Mathematical Draught or Figure, having relation to any of the Propoſitions of *Euclid*, but that he immediately remembred both the Propoſition and its Demonſtration ; having (as he was pleaſed to tell us himſelf ;) read them over at leaſt twelve times one after another. We did Tranſlate all the moſt neceſſary Propoſitions of *Euclid*, and their Demonſtrations into the *Tartarian* Language, for his uſe, as well as the choiceſt of *Archimede*'s Propoſitions. And with the ſame Readineſs he would remember the Practick and uſe of the Compaſs of Proportion, of the beſt Mathematical Inſtruments of Geometry and Arithmatick.

Such was his eager Deſire to attain to the perfect Knowledge of theſe Things, that nothing was able to prevent or hinder his Reſolution ; neither the various Inſtances that occur in this Study, nor our want of Skill in the Language. For, if he with any demonſtration which he did not well apprehend at firſt, either becauſe it was more intricate than the reſt, or becauſe we wanted proper words to explain our ſelves clearly in a foreign Language, he would readily ask ſometimes one, ſometimes another of us, and that at three or four ſeveral times, which way the ſame was to be underſtood ; and if it happened ſometimes that we had not the good for-

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tune to give him a clear Idea of the matter at that time, he would not grudge to defer the further Explication of it, to another time, a convincing Inſtance of his moſt Admirable Patience and Attention. He was pleaſed to tell us one time upon this account, ſpeaking of his own Perſon; that he never thought he could have too much patience in reference of theſe Matters, which abſolutely requir'd it; and, that from his very Infancy, he had always applied himſelf, to whatever he undertook, with a great deal of Attention and Conſtancy.

After he was ſufficiently inſtructed in the Elements of Geometry, he ordered us to compile a whole Syſtem of both the Theorick and Practick of Geometry, in the *Tartarian* Language, which we afterwards explain'd to him in the ſame manner as we had done with the Elements of *Euclid.* At the ſame time, Father *Thomas* made a Collection of all the Calculations of Geometry and Arithmaticks (in the *Chineſe* Language) containing moſt of the Curious Problems extant, both in the *European* and *Chineſe* Books, that treat of this matter.

He was ſo much delighted in the purſuit of theſe Sciences, that beſides betwixt two and three Hours, which were ſet aſide every day on purpoſe to be ſpent in our Company, he beſtowed moſt of his leiſure time, both in the day and at night in his Studies. 'Tis to be obſerved, That this

Prince, as he is a declared Enemy of a Lazy and Idle Life, fo he never go's to Bed but very late, and rifes early; from whence it came, that, tho' we were always very careful in being at Court early in the Morning, it happened frequently, that before we could get out of doors, he had already fent for us, either to Revife fome of his Calculations, or perhaps a new Problem; For it is almoft incredible, with what Affiduity he applies himfelf to inveftigate fome new Problems, which have fome reference to thofe that have been explain'd to him before; and how he did make it his chief Divertifement, to put in practife whatever he had learn'd of moft Curious in Geometry, and to perfect himfelf in the Management of the moft ufeful Mathematical Inftruments.

For which purpofe, befides thofe that were formerly prefented to his Father (which were carefully preferved by his Orders) he caufed many more to be made, the management of all which he could learn to underftand, even to the Niceft Point. Thefe were committed to the Care of Father *Peyrera*, and Father *Suarez*, who being two Perfons that fpared no pains in Encouraging the Emperour's Zeal, did manage the whole to the entire Satisfaction of His Majefty.

We on our fide, were likewife not negligent in obliging the Emperour with what Mathematical Inftruments we had in our Cuftody, proper for his Ufe, among which

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was a very fine and large Demycircle, fitted for Geometrical Operations, being a present of the Duke *de Maine*. This he did not only make frequent use of in the Gardens of his Pallace, but likewise in his Progresses, when it was always carried upon the Back of one of the *Mandarins* of his Houshold, who notwithstanding its Weight, was not a little proud of the Honour in being intrusted with this precious Burthen. By the help of this Instrument, he would frequently measure sometimes the height of a neighbouring Mountain, sometimes the distance of some remarkable place or other, and that in the presence of his whole Court, who were surprized to see that their Emperour managed this Instrument, and performed the Operations with the same dexterity and good success, as Father *Gerbillon* a *Jesuite*, who always used to attend His Majesty in his Progresses.

Immediately after our first arrival at *Peking*, we presented him with two excellent Machines, in which one might observe the Eclipses of the Sun and Moon, with the different Aspects of the Planets, for every day in the Year, and for many Ages together. We stand indebted for the Invention of these two most Curious Machines, to those of the *Academy Royal*. The Emperour having commanded us to shew him the perfect Use of them, and how to apply them to the *Chinese* Calendar, ordered these two Machines to be

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placed on each side of his Throne, in one of the Principal Appartments of his Pallace, where I saw them standing but the day before my departure out of *Peking*; a most convincing Proof of the great Esteem the Emperour has for these as well as all other curious and useful Mathematical Instruments.

Ever since that time, he has shewn a most particular Inclination and Esteem both for the *French* Mathematical Instruments, and other Works and Curious Contrivances; those we had the Honour to offer to His Majesty, having had the good Fortune to meet with his Approbation above all the rest.

It was no wonder if the Esteem the Emperour had for the *European* Mathematical Instruments, soon influenced most of the Great Men at Court to tred in his footsteps; and if those who honour us with their good Will and Favours, do often engage us, to let some be brought over for them; being sensible that they cannot make their Court with better hopes of Success, than by making a Present of some Curious Mathematical Invention or other, to the Emperour, who not only receives very favourably, all what is offered him in this kind, but shews so much Eagerness for his being furnished with them from all Parts, that he has caused all the Meathematical Instruments, that were in the hands of the Governours of theMaritime Provinces, to be brought to *Peking*.

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To encourage this Noble Desire, we sent to our Brothers the Fathers, *Fontenay le Comte* and *Visdelou*, to desire them to furnish us with such Instruments as we judged most proper for the Emperour's use. These Fathers sent us several of the most Curious Mathematical Instruments, some *Phosphorus*'s, both solid and liquid, and other such like Rarities; which we having made a Present of to the Emperour, he received them with all the Marks of Joy, and a most particular Esteem. But these Fathers, being afterwards invited by the Emperour to his Court, they and their Presents met equally with the most obliging Receiption in the World. Among several other Mathematical Instruments they presented to His Majesty, there were several Levels with two *Pendulum*'s, to distinguish the Seconds, for Cœlestial Observations, which by reason of their great Exactness and Usefulness, being highly extoll'd by the Emperour, he assign'd them convenient Places in his own Bedchamber; And the Prince, who is declared Successour of the Empire, and shews no less Inclination for these Curiosities than his Royal Father, being extreamly taken with them, and discovering his Intention to us, I went straight ways to our House, and presented him with the onely of the same kind, I had left, which he accepted of in a most extraordinary obliging manner.

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After we had compleated our Explications both of the Practical and Speculative Geometry, in the same Method as we had made use of before, when we instructed the Emperour in the Elements of the *Euclid*, he shew'd so much Satisfaction in having attained to this Noble Science, that, to give the World some manifest Proofs of his Esteem for these Works we had composed, he ordered them to be Translated out of the *Tartarian* into the *Chinese* Language. He himself took the pains to prefix a Preface to each of them, and to have them Revised and printed in his own Pallace, and to have them published throughout the whole Empire in both Languages, as a most evident Sign of his laudable intention, to introduce the *European* Sciences into *China*, and to render them familiar to all his Subjects; and having observed in his third Son, (who is a young Prince of about seventeen years of Age, and endowed with many Noble Qualifications) a more than ordinary Genius for these Sciences, he taught him the Principles of Geometry in person.

I do not question but there are not a few, who will look upon this so Extraordinary Inclinations and Assiduity towards these Sciences (which without all Contradiction, are not sufficiently to be praised in a private person) as rather blameable than commendable in so Great a Prince, who bears the Weight of so vast an Empire as that of *China*, upon his Shoulders; But, if we will take the pains

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to make due Reflections upon the due Character and present State of the *Chinese* Empire and Nation, who at all times have made Learning the Foundation-stone of their Government, and the knowledge of Sciences the Steps by which to ascend to the highest Dignities and Employments, we shall be forced to confess, That the Emperour's Extraordinary passion for, and delight in these Sciences, ought to be considered as the Effects of a most refined piece of Policy of *France*, who has an absolute insight into the true Nature of the Art of Government.

It is undeniable, that of late years, if you except Moral Philosophy, which is the principal Study that meets with Encouragement among the Modern *Chineses*. This Nation has neglected most of these Sciences, which rendred their Ancestors Famous to Posterity, and were questionless the Chief Cause of the flourishing Condition of their Empire. The present Emperour being inspired with a most glorious Ambition to restore the antient Glory of this Empire, he judged nothing could be more conducing to attain this Great End, than if he could receive these most useful Arts and Sciences, which were once the Glory of this Nation, and, by his own Example, encourage his Subjects to follow his footsteps.

The Emperour being thus instructed in all the parts of Geometry, apply'd his Thoughts to the Study of Philosophy:

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For which Reason, he commanded us to Compile a Body of Philosophy in the *Tarvarian* Language, and to follow the same Method we had observed in our Mathematical Treatises, which appear'd to him the most easie and natural. The Success, wherewith it had pleased God hitherto to bless our Endeavours, encreased our Wishes and Hopes of the same, if not better Success in this; and, as we were fully perswaded, that this might prove one day the most proper Means, and be consequently of the utmost Consequence to dispose the Hearts of the *Chineses*, especially those who have any relish of Learning, towards the receiving of the Gospel; we were not sparing in any thing which we thought might contribute towards the introducing a good Philosophy among them.

For this purpose we consulted most of the Antient and Modern Philosophies; but among all of them, found none more suitable for our Purpose, than the Antient and Modern Philosophies of Mr. *Duhamel*, a Member of the *Royal Academy*, by reason of the Solidity, Purity, and good Connexion of the Doctrine contained in this Treatise; which, therefore we made our Guide to bring our Work to the desired Effect.

But the Emperour being about the same time attack'd by a most dangerous Distemper, it was the Advice of his whole Court, and especially of his Physicians,

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upon his Recovery, to desist for some time from his Studies, as being prejudicial to the re-establishment of his Health. This Prince, being for the abovementioned Reason obliged to be more remiss in his applications to these Sciences, we only shew'd him a short Logic, which we intended as an Introduction to our Philosophical Work, of which we had given a Scheme in a large Preface. It was upon this score, that, in lieu of pursuing the same Method and Purpose we intended before; we saw our selves under an indispensible Obligation to conform our selves to the present Disposition and particular Inclinations of the Emperour; which, as we had observed, being of late, for the most part, bent upon the knowledge of the Structure of the Human Body, upon its various Operations and most surprising Motions, we, contrary to our former Design, applied our selves to Treat of this, with the utmost Care and Application.

But because the *Chineses*, for all their great Reputation of having for many years past, had the ablest Physicians, have at present but a very confused Knowledge in Anatomy; we were forced to extend this Treatise to a much larger Bulk, than we at first intended, and to give a true Idea, first of all the Parts of the Humane Body in general, and to treat of each afterwards in particular; and to represent the several Relations and Connexions betwixt them, to give them a right Idea of the

the whole *Occonomia Animalis*. We did not neglect to insert in this Treatise all the most Curious and useful Discoveries of our Modern Anatomists, especially those of Mr. *Du Verney*, and of some other Learned Members of the *Royal Academy*, who have distinguished themselves before others in this, as well as in all other kind of Learning.

We shew'd the Emperour twelve of fourteen of these Propositions, with their proper Figures and Explications, just as he was return'd out from one of his Progresses, he frequently makes into *Tartary*; he was so extreamly pleased with them, that, to shew how much he was delighted with them, he ordered his Chief Painter, who is a Great Master of his Art, to lay aside all other Things, and to make it his whole Business to draw these Figures with all the Exactness he could.

Neverthelefs, as this Work requir'd more Application and Assiduity, than was consistent with the Emperour's Health, so our Labour was interrupteh for some time by the Emperour's Command, whose Curiosity inclining rather at that time to the investigating the Causes of some of the most noted Distempers, wherewith he had either been formerly, or was still afflicted; he ordered us to endeavour to inform him concerning the Causes of these Distempers, according to the Principles of our Modern *European* Physicians,

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God Almighty, who by his Providence had given us this favourable Opportunity, to touch more effectually the Heart of this Great Prince in favour of the Christian Religion and its Ministers, did also assist us in making a Considerable Progress in this Matter. For in two or three Months time, we writ 18 or 20 small Treatises, each Treating of a certain Distemper in particular, pursuant to the Method prescribed to us by the Emperour. They met with the good Fortune of being not only Approv'd, but also very pleasing to the Emperour, who extoll'd them in Publick, and sent for us into his Presence, to be Witnesses our selves of the Satisfaction he shew'd upon this Occasion. To give us an ample proof of his Acknowledgement, he pitch'd upon the most proper Recompense that could be bestowed upon Ministers of the Gospel, and at our most Earnest Request, he, by his publick Edict granted the free Exercise of our Religion, and consequently freed its Professors from those dangers that had threatned them for many years last past.

In some of the first of these Treatises we had, upon the occasion of speaking of the internal Chimical Remedies, enlarged our selves upon their Excellencies, in respect of this Particular, that besides their Qualities of Curing or giving Ease in many Distempers, they had this peculiar Prerogative before other Medicines, that they were not so nauseous, and taken

in less quantity. The Emperour having conceived a particular Curiosity to see some Effects of it, was very desirous to see some Experiments made of this kind. We did all what in us lay to decline this province, in representing to him, that we having no experience in Matters of this Nature, durst not attempt a thing of such Moment; But this Prince, who by some small things of this Nature, he had seen us do before, judged that we might undertake this also with the same hopes of Success, would not admit of our excuses.

To work therefore we went, taking for our Guide the Dispensatory of the Sieur *Charas*, Director of the *Royal Laboratory*; The Emperour assign'd us a large Room within the Pallace, where we set up a Laboratory. Here you might have seen several Sorts of Furnaces, with most Instruments and Utensils requisite for Chimical Operations; which pursuant to the Emperour's Orders, who is never sparing upon such like Occasions, were all of Silver. We were busie in preparing several Sorts of Conserves, Lymphs and Essences, for three Months together, and the Emperour would sometimes honour us with his Presence, and took such particular Satisfaction in those Preparations, that he ordered them to be preserv'd for his own Use.

More than this, he caused many Golden and Silver Vessels to be made, in which he carried these Medicines in his Progresses, which

which he took a peculiar Phansie in, and would give them upon occasion to his Children, the Great Men of his Court, and others of his Attendance. It must truly be confess'd of this Prince, that his Natural Inclinations are very Charitable; for no sooner does he hear of any of his Servants being ill, but he sends his Physicians to them, and liberally furnishes them with what is most precious among his Medicines. Of this we have had several times experience our selves; as often as any of us happened to be afflicted with any Distemper.

We had the good Fortune to see many Sick people, and among them, several of the Emperour's Houshold, to be relieved by these Medicines we had brought along with us out of *Europe*. The *Emperour* falling sick some time after; and having for some time made use of the *Chinese* Remedies, but with little Succefs, had recourse to ours, which produced the desired effect. His Physicians jealous of their Reputation, did all what in them lay to restore him to his Health, but to little purpose, all proving ineffectual, except the *Quinquina*, of which the two Fathers, *De Fontenay* and *Visdelou*, who arrived very fortunately at that time, had brought a good Quantity along with them. Heaven, which upon this as well as several other Occasions, was pleased to give us a particular Mark of its Mercy; being willing to make use of our Assistance as

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Recompense to this Prince, for the Liberty granted to the Professors of the Christian Religion in the preceding Year; and as a further Engagement to extend his Bounty more and more towards the Preachers of the Gospel, to whom he stood indebted for the preservation of his Life, as he himself was pleased publickly to declare in the presence of most of the Grandees of his Court.

There are very few who have tarryed for any considerable time at *Peking*, but what know with how much Esteem and Affection Father *Verbiest* was received by this Emperour; but it is also undeniable, that he never gave him such particular proofs of his Esteem, as he did to us for several years past, whilst we had the Honour of being instrumental in promoting his Studies in the Mathematicks.

Those who are acquainted with the *Chinese* Court, where every thing is carried on with a singular Grandeur, are not ignorant, how rare a thing it is to see their *Emperours* enter into a familiar Conversation with their Subjects; and how difficult a thing it is, even for the Greatest Men in the Empire, and the Princes of the Royal Blood to approach his person, unless it be upon the Occasion of some publick Festival, will perhaps be scarce able to believe, that we had so free an Admittance; especially considering that we were Religious persons, and Foreigners.

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The whole Court have been eye-witness (to their great Surprize) of the private Audiences and Conferences we had duly every day, no body being admitted to be present, but three or four Eunuchs of the Emperour's Bed-chamber; where the Chief Subject of our Discourse was concerning all manner of Sciences, the Manners and Customs, and what else was worth our Observation in the *European*, and some other States of the World. As there was not any Subject, wherewith we used to entertain this Prince with more particular Satisfaction, than the Glorious Actions of *Lewis the Great*, so I can testifie it my self, That there was not any thing of this Nature, in which he took more delight to be inform'd in. At last, he gave us such ample Marks of his great Esteem, that he would absolutely command us to sit down near his side; an Honour never granted before to any Body living, unless to his own Children.

But if he is lavishing in his Bounty towards us in private, he is not sparing of it in publick, having given sufficient proofs to the World, of a particular Affection and Esteem. Every body knows in what manner Father *Verbiest* was honoured by him, both in his Life-time and after his Death. Very few are unacquainted in what Splendid manner Father *Thomas* was invited and received in *China*; and how the first five *French Jesuits Missionaries*, were received with no less Honour at his

Court. The *Muscovites* have been eye-witnesses of Honours conferr'd upon the Fathers, *Peyrera* and *Gerbillon*, at the Treaty of Peace betwixt their Plenipotentiaries and those of *China*, about eight Years ago. It was the Entertainment of the whole Court of *Peking* at that time, when Father *Grimaldi* was sent by the present Emperour as his Envoy into *Muscovy*. I will leave it to others to testifie, how honourable I was Treated by his Special Orders, by all the Governours of the Provinces, and others, and that frequently in the presence of the Missionaries of several other Nations, and of the *English* and *Portugese* Merchants; especially, at that time when I received his special Instructions to go into *France*; and how it acquir'd me so extraordinary a Reputation throughout all the Eastern-parts, (even among the Enemies of our Nation) as is scarce to be credited.

We indeed, as well as all the other Jesuits, which formerly were entrusted with any publick Employments by the Emperour of *China*, made it our constant Business to insinuate both to the Prince and his Grandees, that we were not desirous of these Honours, which were not very agreeable to the Humility taught by the Gospel; but inspite of all our Excuses, it was the Emperour's Pleasure to heap upon us from time to time these publick Marks of his Favour, looking upon them as the most proper Means to promote our

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Intereſt, both among the Great Men and common People; and to give the more Authority and Weight to the Profeſſion and Doctrine of the Chriſtian Religion.

The ſame Curioſity which had led the Emperour towards the Improvement of our Sciences, did alſo induce him to be inform'd concerning the Chief Points of our Religion. The firſt knowledge of them he drew from divers Conſultations he had with Father *Verbieſt*, under pretext of Conferring with him about ſome of the moſt Valuable Sciences of *Europe*. He has alſo read ſeveral Treatiſes upon this Subject, which were preſented to him by ſome of the Fathers Miſſionaries. That which he delighted in moſt was an excellent Piece of the Famous *Jeſuit*, Father *Ricci*, which he kept by him above ſix Months. You may believe we did not let ſlip any Opportunity that offered, to ſpeak to him concerning the true Principles of Chriſtianity. He permits to the Jeſuits Miſſionaries the free exerciſe of our Religion within the precinct of his own Pallace; and he has been often heard to ſay, that, to judge of the Chriſtian Religion according to its Principles and Progreſs it had made in *China*, he did not queſtion, but that it would become the Eſtabliſhed Religion there.

He has laid aſide already many of the moſt antient Superſtitions of the *Chineſes*. As for inſtance, there is ſcarce any body in *China*, (unleſs he be a Chriſtian) but

what, if he is to undertake any thing of Moment, chuses a certain Day and Hour, to begin it in. There is a special Appartment belonging to the Tribunal of the Mathematicks, where their whole Business is, to chuse by many Superstitious ways, Places, Days, and Hours, for any thing of Moment that is to be taken in hand. It is no longer than in the Minority of this present Emperour, that three *Mandarins* of the Mathematical Tribunal, were condemned by the Regents of the Empire, to lose their Heads, for no other Reason, than having been not careful enough in Observing the exact Hour, when the Emperours Brother's Funeral was to have been begun; they looking upon this Neglect as ominous, if not Fatal to the whole Imperial Family.

'Tis true, the Emperour has hitherto out of a Principle of Policy, not abolished this Tribunal; but he has more than once told us himself, that he makes not the least Reflection upon their Observations; and it is certain, that in all Matters relating to his own Person, he takes his Resolutions beforehand, which he afterwards sends to the Tribunal. Thus for instance; when he was going to Marry his eldest Son, the Mathematical Tribunal, unto whom it belongs (according to a most antient Custom among the *Chineses*) to determine which of the several Persons proposed ought to be preferr'd before the rest, received his Instru-

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ctions to chuse the ſame Perſon the Emperour had pitch'd upon before, which was done accordingly. The ſame Method he makes uſe of when he intends to take a Progreſs; when he always ſends his Orders to this Tribunal, what day he intends to ſet out, and their Reſolutions are always agreeable to his prefixed Time.

It is next to a Miracle, to ſee a Prince ſo Potent, ſo Abſolute, whoſe Commands are a Law, and executed without delay, ſurrounded with ſuch a number of Courtiers, addicted to their Pleaſures and all manner of Luxury, ſo moderate in his perſon, and ſo great a Maſter of his paſſions, as this Monarch. He is naturally of a Colerick Diſpoſition, notwithſtanding which, it has been obſerved upon many Occaſions, both in reſpect of publick or private Affairs, that he ſo abſolutely controuls his Anger, as ſcarce ever to puniſh an ill Action immediately, but generally delays it to another time, ſometimes for Weeks and Months; looking upon this as the moſt proper means to make puniſhment bear a due proportion to the Fault committed, and conſequently to maintain a good Order in the State.

Of this we obſerved a moſt memorable Inſtance about ſix years ago. The Emperour happening to fall dangerouſly ill in one of his progreſſes, which he made in the Mountainous parts of *Tartary* to Hunt, according to his Cuſtom; he ſent Poſt for his Son, who was declared

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his Succeſſour. Some of the young Prince's Domeſticks, having conceiv'd ſome hopes of ſeeing their young Maſter ſurmounted upon the Throne, had not only ſhew'd their Satisfaction in their Countenances, but alſo had let ſlip ſome Words, which having reach'd the Emperour's Ears, immediately after his firſt Recovery, he was extreamly vex'd at their Indiſcretion; but conſidering that at this Juncture of time, it would turn to the no ſmall prejudice of his Health, if he ſhould give vent to his Anger; he maſter'd his paſſion, and delay'd their puniſhment to a more ſeaſonable Time. After he had pretty well recovered his former Strength, he asked his *Phyſicians*, whether without any Danger to his Health, he might diſcharge a little Choler, which had oppreſſed him for ſome time? And his *Phyſicians* having given their Conſent, he ordered them to be ſoundly Baſtonaded, beginning with the Forſter-Father of the Prince, who was then his Governour; and ſome of the Chief *Eunuchs* of his Chamber, he baniſhed to the utmoſt Confines of *Tartary*. But it ought to be obſerved here, that a good Baſtonade or Whipping, is an extraordinary Puniſhment in *China*, and ſome other *Eaſtern-Parts*, which do not leave behind them any Stain of Infamy, as it is with us in *Europe*; nothing being more frequently to be ſeen, than, that the *Emperour*'s Servants, after they have been thus Chaſtiſed, are put in their for-

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mer Stations again, and are admitted again even into the Emperour's presence, who looks upon them never the worse for this Reason, if they make an Amends for their past Misdemeanour by their future Good behaviour.

The present Emperour of *China* is no less Master of his other, than of this Passion, and especially of that which is so predominant in most Courts of the *Asiatick* Princes, and which at all times have been so far from being considered in *China* as a Vice, that it has rather been authorised by Custom. Within the Pallace are entertained great Numbers of young Maids, chosen out of the Fairest of the whole Empire, to be at the Disposal of their Prince; And it is an antient Custom among the *Tartars*, not to marry any of their Daughters, but what has been first presented to the Emperour, who, without any further formality, may retain which he pleases of them, for his own use; which is, besides this, look'd upon by their Kindred as a singular Honour done to their Family.

It is to these most dangerous Customs, which have proved the ruine of so many Emperours; the *Chineses* may chiefly attribute these many Revolutions, which have happened in their *Empire*, their Princes being thereby enticed to abandon themselves altogether to Voluptuousness, and whilst they pass'd the greatest part of their time among their Concubines, leave the whole

whole Management of publick Affairs to their *Eunuchs* and other Favourites.

But the Emperour, who at this time sits upon the *Chinese* Throne, is so far from indulging himself in these Pleasures, that on the contrary, he avoids even the least Opportunities, and takes all the Precautions he can to render himself proof against all these Temptations.

About some years ago in one of his Progresses into the Province of *Nanking*; they presented him, according to Custom, with seven of the Handsomest Maids of the whole Province; but he was so far from accepting of them, that he would not so much as look upon them. Some of his Courtiers, who had free access to his Person, having abused this Liberty, by endeavouring to entice him to Voluptuousness, they were never after look'd upon with a good eye by this Prince, who found several ways to chastise them afterwards for their Misbehaviour, to make them sensible how little Satisfaction he took, and how much he stood upon his Guard against these Allurements, which serve only to debase a Generous Soul.

To remove all Opportunies of being drawn into the Snare of those pernicious Pleasures, he employs his Time in the more Noble exercises both of his Mind and Spirit; such as Travelling, Hunting, Fishing, Horse-Races, Exercises of Arms, Reading of Books, and the Study of useful Sciences. It is for this Reason he de-

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lights ſo much in taking long Journeys, where the Women never follow the Court; and, beſides that, he allots himſelf every Year, at leaſt three Months for Hunting amongſt the Mountainous parts of *Tartary*, where even Neceſſity it ſelf, oblige the whole Court to abate much of theſe Pleaſures they are wont to enjoy in *China*; he frequently takes a Progreſs of 15 or 20 days, to the Imperial Tombs of his Family, where he ſpends moſt of his time in Hunting.

When he is at *Peking*, or at one of his two Country Seats near that City, he often ſpends the greateſt part of the Day in Hunting. For this purpoſe, he has a very fine Park, about a Leagues diſtance from *Peking*, of a quadrangular Figure, ſurrounded with a very high Wall, containing about ſixteen Leagues in Circumference, where great numbers of wild Beaſts and Fowl are entertain'd for his conſtant Diverſion. And as he takes particular Delight in Hunting the Tyger, ſo he conſtantly takes care to have ſome young ones bred up in a ſmall Park behind his Pallace, which ſerve him for his Diverſion when they are grown up.

For the ſame reaſon it is the Emperour, delights extreamly in Fiſhing, and is well verſed in every thing belonging to it. Sometimes you ſhall ſee him Fiſhing in the River of *Peking*, ſometimes in the Ponds belongining to the Gardens of his Pallace, and his Country Seats; ſome-

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times he casts a Net, at other times he Fishes with the Angle; We have oftentimes receiv'd the honour of being presented with some of the Fish he catch'd with his own hands; which is look'd upon among the *Chineses*, as a most particular mark of the Emperour's Favour.

As for the Horse-Races, tho' they are not so frequently practised, yet once or twice a year he keeps Publick Horse-Races for his whole Court. Every one of the Princes and Grandees do here produce their finest and Swiftest Runners in their Stables. The Emperour likewise puts in his own Horses, and sets a considerable Prize, to be carried by the Horse, that first comes to the end of the Race. The *Tartars* in general are great Admirers of the Races, and Ride sometimes Races of six or seven Leagues long, without taking breath, and with so much eagerness, that often Horse and Man drops by the way, notwithstanding which, there do not want others, who readily supply their places.

The Horses commonly used among the *Tartars*, no more than those of the *Chineses*, don't come near our *European* Horses of any Value, either for shape, or Generosity and Spirit. But they have this Advantage before most of our Horses, that they are kept with much less Trouble and Charges; and yet will endure more Fatigues and run both longer and swifter.

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We have told you before that this Prince is very aderoit in managing the Bow and Fire-lock, as well as in other Bodily Exercises; and what wonder is it, if he takes particular delight, to instruct his Sons in the same exercises, of which he is so great a Master himself.

He is no less careful in keeping his Troops in continual exercise; Four Months in the year are appointed on purpose for the exercising the Souldiers in all sorts of Military Actions; to wit, two Months in the Spring, and two in Autumn; but especially those quartered in and about the City of *Peking*, of which one fifth part is drawn out into Field, to do their exercises every day. Sometimes the Emperour takes a review of them altogether, sometimes some part of them in Person, where Prizes are allotted those who manage their Arms with most dexterity. When they Shoot at the Mark, every Foot or Horse Souldier, who Shoots with his Arrow within the Circle receives a Reward of three Shillings and Six-pence.

If but a private Centinal's place be vacant in the Emperour's Troops, there are many ready to offer their Service; whereas in *Europe*, our Officers cannot compleat sometimes their Companies, but with a great deal of Trouble; the Emperour lays his strict Commands upon his Officers, always to pick out those they find most Accomplished in managing their Arms, and other Militarly exercises, there being none to be

be admitted without having undergone the Toil of it. But, when any place either of a Common Soldier, or *Mandarin* of his Guards, happens to be vacant, the Emperour takes effectual Care himself, that his Orders as to this point, may be put in execution with the greatest exactness imaginable. For, so often as a vacant place is to be supplied among the Troops of the Houshold, those who desire to be admitted into it, are brought into His Majesty's presence, who examines them concerning such Matters as belong to their several Stations, and always gives preferrence to those, whom he finds best Qualified.

The present never Emperour neglects any thing which he judges may in the least contribute to the Preservation and Securi- of the State. He was no sooner instructed in what belong to the Casting of Cannons, as used in *Europe*, but he caused a great Quantity to be cast in Imitation of them; and many of his Subjects to be instructed in the Management of the Great Artillery, as well for Cannoneering as Bombarding of places. He ordered a prodigious Quantity of Brass Field-pieces to be made, which are portable upon a Horse or Mule; another Horse being alloted to each, for the Carriage and Ammunition belonging to it, all of his own Inventing.

In a late Battle fought betwixt his Troops and those of the *Tartarian* King of *Eluth*, it had been observed, that the Enemy by their Fire-Arms, had done the greatest mischief to his Forces; that their continual Firing upon his Horse, had forced them back out of their Lines, and consequently had prevented them from putting the Enemies Army to an entire Rout; ever since, the Emperour has taken care to have part of his Troops, but especially those of his Houshold, to be instructed as well in the Management of the Fire-lock, as of the Bow.

What leisure time this Prince has, is altogether employed, either in the Improvement of his Mind, or useful exercise of his Body. For besides what is spent in Reading of the *Chinese* Books, and *European* Treatises concerning many Arts and Sciences, after he has been fully instructed in the use of the Mathematical Instruments, nothing is more frequent, for some years last past, than to see him either at *Peking*, or at his Country Seats, nay even in his Progresses into *Tartary*, to take the greatest Pleasure in the World to make some Astronomical or Geometrical Observations, by the help of those Mathematical Instruments, which are carried after him, wherever he goes. Sometimes you would see him to take the hight of the Sun at Noon; sometimes the Hour and Minute with an Astronomical Ring, to investigate the elevation of the Pole,

At other times, you might find him meaſuring the hight of ſome Tower or Mountain, or the Diſtance of ſome remarkable Places. Oftentimes he would employ himſelf in Calculating the length of the Shadow of a Stick at Noon of a certain day. As the Obſervations made by the Emperour, and thoſe of Father *Gerbillon*, who commonly attended him in his Progreſſes, and made his Obſervations at the ſame time with the Emperour, did generally agree very exactly with one another; ſo the whole Court was over-joyed at it, and there was ſcarce any Prince, or Perſon of Quality, who were not deſirous, to have at leaſt their Children inſtructed in thoſe Sciences, which they ſo much admired; but diſpair'd of ever being able to attain to the Knowledge of them themſelves.

After Father *Fontenay* and Father *Viſdelou* came to *Peking*, the Emperour had the Curioſity to be inſtructed by them concerning the uſe of the *Pendulum*, fitted for Cœleſtial Obſervations, and of the Level, and ſome other Inſtruments, which theſe Fathers preſented to the Emperour, immediately after their arrival. They were not ſparing in their Labour, and after they had explain'd to him many Curious Propoſitions concerning ſeveral points of Aſtronomy; they having likewiſe mentioned to him two new Methods to find out the Ecclipſes, of the Invention of Mr. *Caſſini*, and Mr. *De-la-Hire*; he

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was ſo extreamly taken with them, that he would needs be informed concerning theſe Methods, for which reaſon he ordered theſe Fathers to draw up the neceſſary Figures for their Explication.

To give the moſt ample demonſtration to the World that could be, how much he delighted in all theſe noble Exerciſes, he reſolved to re-eſtabliſh the moſt uſeful Arts and Sciences in his Empire. That which chiefly made him take this Reſolution, was his frequent Converſation with the *European* Authors, and eſpecially thoſe of *France*, who have treated of theſe Matters; Add to this, that we never let ſlip the leaſt opportunity that offered, for to enlarge our ſelves in our Diſcourſes upon the Subject of thoſe ſeveral Famous Academies, erected under his preſent Majeſty's Reign in *Paris*, for the Encouragement of Arts and Sciences; and to what a degree of perfection the ſame were brought, under the protection of *Lewis the Great*, who by his Royal Munificence had drawn thither the moſt Eloquent Maſters of all kinds.

It was in Imitation of that ſame Model, we had given him of this Academy, the preſent Emperour of *China* laid the Foundation of an Academy of *Painters*, of *Engravers*, *Carvers*, and other Artiſts in Braſs and Copper; for Clock-Works and Mathematical Inſtruments; aſſigning them certain Appartments about five Years ago within the precinct of his own Pallace,

give them all due Encouragement, and to create among them a kind of Emulation, he used to set them for Patterns those pieces which were made in *Europe*, and especially those made at *Paris*. And as he is an excellent Judge both of the Goodness and Beauty of all Sorts of Curious Workmanship, he has every day, if he is at *Peking*, or every other day, if at one of his Country Houses, at a certain hour brought to him the several pieces of these New Academnians. He takes a view and examines every thing with all Nicety imaginable; finds fault with what is defective, and gives due praise to those that deserve it; and retains for his own use what he finds as most exact and perfect. He also bestows some Publick Marks of his Favour upon all those Artists, whom he finds industrious in improving their Natural Talent, and passionate for to bring their Pieces to the utmost degree of perfection; Some of whom he has elevated to the Dignity of *Mandarins*, and has caused them to be invested with those Ceremonies and Titles which are the ordinary Marks of these Honours, the Emperour was pleased to bestow upon them.

The present Emperour of *China*, as absolute a Master as he is, both of his Subjects and Passions, would not be look'd upon by the *Chineses*, as an accomplish'd Monarch, if besides his many other great Qualifications, he had not also a particular Respect and Tenderness for his Kindred.

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As the principal Duty in reference of those that are next of Kin, consists in that respect which is due from Children to their Parents, and in the tenderness of Parents to their Children; So this Prince has signalized himself in these two points, to the highest degree.

As to what relates to the first of these two Duties, which is considered among the *Chineses*, as one of the most Essential parts of Morality; the present Emperour having been bereaved of both of the Emperour his Father, and the Empress his Mother, in his very Infancy; the old Empress his Grand-mother, which survived them for a considerable time, was always both in her life-time, and after her death, the true Object of his filial Respect; as the Prince was the most perfect Pattern of Dutyfulness, that ever was heard of before, even in *China* it self. She was the only person, that took care of his Education; and it is incredible, with what Submission he could receive her Instructions; how he never failed to attend her continually, and what Inquietudes might be observed in his very Countenance, when at any time he had notice given him, that she was never so little out of Order; upon which occasion, he has sometimes left off Hunting immediately, and Rid three or fourscore Miles Post, to give her a Visit.

But those that have been Eye witness of what he did at the time of Her Death, will readily confess that nothing could

pass his Tenderness towards his Grand-Mother. For he caused not only the whole Court, but the whole Empire to go into Mourning, for fifteen days together, that the Dead Body of the Empress lay in State; there was a general suspension of all publick Affairs; All the Grandees and *Mandarins*, even to the most inconsiderable Officers were forced to attend Day and Night in the several Courts of the Pallace, where, notwithstanding the Rigour of the Winter Season, they were to bewail the Loss of this Princess. He himself could not be perswaded to leave the Coffin, and would sometimes tarry in the same Appartment where She lay, whole Nights together without taking rest. He ordered a most magnificent Funeral to be Celebrated, which cost several Millions, to give the most evident proof of his respect to the deceased Princess, he followed the Corps in Person with his whole Court, as far as to the Place of Burial, which was 25 Leagues distant from *Peking*.

But it is to be observed, that it was near four Months after her Death, before the Celebration of these Funeral Rites; the Emperour having caused the Corps to be deposited in the mean while in one of the Royal Pallaces without the City, whither he followed it on foot, with all his Children, that were of a fit Age to walk.

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During these four Months, it laid in State there, the Emperour went constantly three or four times a Week, to pay his Duty to the Deceased, and to Deplore the Loss of this Incomparable Princess. Near the Sepulchre where her Body was Interr'd, he built a very Magnificent Pallace, surrounded with a great many fair Lodgings, for the convenient Entertainment of a Considerable Number of Gentlemen, whose Business it was to do all imaginable Honour to the Memory of this Princess, by their Lamentations, and other Ceremonies used among the *Chineses* upon such like Occasions.

For whole three years after, neither he nor his whole Court took any publick Divertisements; such as Plays, Musick, Feasting, *&c.* During which time, he took several Progresses every year to the Sepulchre, (notwithstanding its distance from *Peking*) where he spent his time in giving all the imaginable Demonstrations of his Respect towards the deceased Princess; and continues it since, after the expiration of these three years alloted for the Mourning.

I have it from very good hands, that even to this day, when he happens to pass by the Appartment where the Empress died, he cannot forbear to shed Tears.

As the present Emperour of *China*, has made himself the Admiration of the *Chineses*, by these unparallell'd Examples of Piety and Filial Respect to his Il-

luſtrious Grand-mother; ſo the Love he bears to his Children, and the Care he takes without intermiſſion of their Education, have no leſs gain'd him the Hearts of all his Subjects.

At the beginning of the year 1694, (when I left *China*) he had fourteen Sons, and a great many Daughters living, by ſeveral Wives, who for the moſt part are Dignified with the Title of Queen; it being ſufficiently known, that Polygamy is more encouraged in *China*, than in any other part of the World, becauſe the *Chineſes* look upon a numerous Poſterity, as the greateſt Happineſs in this World. We had the Honour of being acquainted with ten of the fourteen Sons, who were all very Handſom, and gave us great hopes of their future Greatneſs, the other four living, being as yet not paſt their Infancy.

Thoſe who have the Tuition of theſe young Princes, are choſen from among the moſt Learned Doctors of the Imperial College. Their Governours are perſons of the firſt Rank, and of known Merit, who have been brought up at the Emperour's Court from their Infancy. Beſides theſe, the Emperour himſelf keeps a watchful eye over all the Actions of theſe Princes, and takes particular Notice of what progreſs they make in their Studies; ſometimes he peruſes their Compoſitions, and makes them explain ſome Paſſages in their Books in his preſence.

But, above all, he makes it the Chief Care of his Life, to see them instructed in every thing tending to Vertue and the useful Exercises of the Body. No sooner are they able to walk upright, but they are taught to mount on Horseback, to use both the Bow and Fire-Arms; which Exercises are their daily Recreations and Divertisements. He will not allow them to be too tenderly used, but on the contrary orders them to be accustomed in their early Years to all sorts of Fatigues, and even the coursest sort of Meat. I cannot forbear on this Occasion to give you an Account of what I heard Father *Gerbillon* relate one day upon this Subject, about six years ago, after his return from a long Journey into *Tartary*, whither he had attended the present Emperour in one of his Progresses.

The Emperour had at that time taken along with him only his Eldest Son, and two more, to wit, the Third and the Fourth; but after he had spent some days in Hunting, he sent likewise for four more of his Sons, the eldest of those being but Twelve, and the youngest Nine years of Age. All these young Princes were for a Month together every day on Horseback, a Hunting among the Mountains of *Tartary*, exposed to the Heat of the Sun, with their Bows in Hand, and Quivers at their Backs, which they managed with so much Dexterity, that their pass'd not a day, but each of them kill'd some wild

Fowl or other; and the first time they went abroad a Hunting, the youngest kill'd two Stags with his Arrow.

They were well vers'd in and spoke both the *Tartarian* and *Chinese* Languages; and had already made such progress in the Study of the *Chinese* Characters, that the youngest was come to the last Book of the Morals of *Confucius*, having gone through the three first Parts before. The Emperour will not suffer them to be encouraged in the least Fault they commit, their Education being much more strict, than what is commonly practised in *Europe*; for which Reason it is, that if those, to whose Tuition they are committed, should pretend to dissemble or hide any of their Faults, they are sure to meet with severe Punishment from the Emperour.

It is an antient Custom among the *Chineses*, to dignifie the Emperour's Children with the Title of King, as soon as they are arriv'd to the Age of Sixteen or Seventeen, at which time they are provided with a Pallace, their own Servants, and a proportionable Revenue to sustain their Grandeur; But, when I left *China*, the present Emperour kept as yet his eldest Son with him in his own Pallace, without any particular Attendance, though he was then near three and twenty years of Age, was Married, and had several Children. The Emperour is extreamly fond of him, and to give him his Due, he is a young Prince very Deserving; Handsom, Witty, and

and endowed with many other Noble Qualifications.

The Tribunal of Princes, and of Officers of the Crown, did ſome years ago preſent a Petition to the Emperour, in favour of this Son, whom they deſired to be Dignified with the Title of King. But the Emperour, without anſwering their Petition, kept him near him as before; and we have ſeen him duly every day go to that Appartment next adjoyning to the Emperour's, which is the School of the Princes, where they paſs the greateſt part of their Time in their Studies, and other uſeful exerciſes. His Majeſty comes thither frequently to viſit them, and examines them what progreſs they make.

But above all the reſt, the Education of his Second Son, who is declared *Hoang-Tai-Tſe*, That is to ſay, Hereditary Prince, or Succeſſour in the Empire, he being the Firſt-born by the Empreſs his firſt Spouſe; the Education, I ſay, of this Prince, ſeems to be the Chiefeſt Care of the preſent Emperour: There is a particular Tribunal appointed, whoſe Buſineſs it is, to inſtruct this Prince in every thing that belongs to the Accompliſhment of ſo Great a Monarch, and to the Art of Government; The Emperour his Father, is extreamly vigilant in every thing that concerns his Education, and takes an exact Account from time to time of all his Actions, being willing to qualifie him in

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time for the Management of so vast an Empire. And it must be confess'd that this Prince, who now is of about twenty three years of Age, is one of the Handsomest Persons in the whole Court of *Peking*, and that he is preferable to all others in respect of his many Noble Qualities; there being not one among all his Domesticks, but what speak of him with the greatest Reverence that can be, and are fully perswaded, that he will tred in his Father's Footsteps, and be one day, one of the most Glorious Monarchs, that ever ascended the *Chinese* Throne

But, that which obliges us to have a most particular Esteem for this Prince, is, that being by the Emperour his Father always inspired with favourable Sentiments in respect of the Christian Religion and the Missionaries, we have always observed in his Person an Affection for us, equal to that of the Emperour.

It is about five year pass'd, when the Emperour having shewn him the Observatory of *Peking*, and all the Mathematical Instruments there, he told the Prince, That the Empire of *China* stood indebted to Father *Verbiest*, for these many Curious and Magnificent Engines, making a large recital of the services done by this Father, and the other Missionaries, to the late Emperour his Father.

The same day that I had my Audience of leave from the Emperour, this young Prince made me a Present of one of his own

own Suits of Cloaths, which is look'd upon as a most particular Favour among the *Chineses*; and this Present was accompanied with Words, so obliging on his side, that I have all the reason in the World to have a high Esteem of so extraordinary a Person. It was, indeed, our opinion, that it was by the Emperour's means, I received this Favour from the Prince, he having sent twice to me a little before, to know, Whether *Hoang-Tai-Tse* made me any Present?

Not long after, this young Prince made likewise a Present of one of his own Suits of Cloaths, to Father *Gerbillon*, with about fifty Pistols in it, accompanied with this obliging Message; That being sensible that the Missionaries did not look for any Recompense of this Nature, he had sent him this small Present, as a Token of his Affection, and of the Satisfaction he took in the Recovery of the Emperour his Father, who stood indebted for it, to the Care of Father *Gerbillon*.

The same day that Father *de Fontenay*, and Father *Visdelou* came to *Peking*, the Emperour being indisposed, and keeping his Bed, could not immediately admit them to his Presence, as he would certainly have done, if he had been well; But *Hoang-Tai-Tse*, having received a very advantageous Character of them before, was very desirous to see them, and received them in a most obliging manner. This Prince, who is very well versed in all the Books

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and Sciences of the *Chineses* ; having understood, that Father *Visdelou* had made a considerable progress in these Studies, was very desirous to be convinced of the Truth of it.

For which purpose, having shew'd him divers of the most difficult Passages in some of their Antient Books, which Father *Visdelou* explained with a great deal of exactness, he was over-joyed to see, that this Father was as well versed in the *Chinese* Books, as most of their own Doctors. But his satisfaction encreased more and more, when having asked Father *Visdelou*, concerning the Conformity betwixt the Doctrine of *Confucius*, and the Antient *Chineses*, and the Christian Religion ; he received for Answer from this Father, That this Antient Doctrine was so far from being contradictory to the Christian Religion, that there was a great uniformity betwixt both their Principles. This Prince being thereby brought to the knowledge of some of the Fundamental Points of the Christian Religion, seems to be convinced, as well as the Emperour his Father, That the Antient Doctrine of the *Chineses* was founded upon the same Principles with the Christian Religion.

I say, as well as the Emperour his Father ; For, it is to be observed, that it is a considerable time ago, this Prince has been convinced of this Truth ; of which he has given us very evident and Authen-

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tick Proofs upon several occasions: And it was, without question, this Considera-tion, that prevailed with him, to allow the free Exercise of the Christian Religi-on throughout his Dominions, in so Pub-lick and solemn a manner, which I am well satisfied, he would never have done, (he being a very Politick Prince) if he had had the least doubt that the Funda-mental Maxims of the Christian Religion, which flow from the Law of Nature, and are its perfection, were contradictory to those of the Antient *Chineses*; which if consider-ed in its genuine Purity, and according to the Principles Established by the Antient Sages of *China*, free from those additional Corruptions inserted by their Modern Do-ctors, is altogether the same with the Law of Nature, The Emperour was fully convinced of this Truth by the reading of that excellent Treatise of Father *Ricci* which Treats expresly of this Matter; and being in so high an esteem among all the Learned Men of *China*, did, as we men-tioned before, at last fall, into the Empe-rour's hands; which induced him to grant us the free exercise of our Holy Religi-on, which we would not as much as have hoped for, without the particular Assistance and Mercy of the Almighty.

The Title belonging this Great Prince of being the Chief or Supream Head of their Religion, and his exquisite Judgment, improved to the highest degree, by the long Study of so many Books, especially

of

of them relating to those Antient *Chinese* Religion, must needs be a great Weight to any unbyass'd Person.

As to what relates to *Hoang-Tai-Tse*, I have it from unquestionable hands, That since my departure from *Peking*, he treads altogether in his Father's Footsteps, and gives our Missionaries frequent Proofs of his Esteem and Affection both for their Religion and Persons. Just as I was ready to Embarque in the Port of *Cantore*, in order to my return into *France*, I received a Letter from Father *Gerbillon*, in which he assured me, That in one of the late Progresses of the Emperour into *Tartary*, in which he attended, as he was always used to do, the young Prince had heaped upon him all the Marks of a particular Esteem and Affection, that could be imagined. That so, being desirous to see some Tables for Calculations, composed by Father *de Fontenay* and Father *Visdelou*, for the Emperour, he had instructed him in the use of them; The Emperour had been so much taken with the usefulness of them, that he had been the first who had shewn them to *Hoang-Tai-Tse*, who ever since carried them in a Case, fastned to his Girdle. That one day, this young Prince asked him concerning the God of Heaven; upon which occasion, Father *Gerbillon*, having made a short Harangue upon this Subject in his presence, he heard him with a great deal of Satisfaction and Attention; and at another time

time engaged him to explain him half a page out of the Holy Scripture.

The Brothers of this Prince, but especially the eldest, who besides many other rare Qualities, has a most excellent Natural Genius, treat us at all times very favourably, as well as the two own Brothers of the Emperour, who in this point exceed all the other Princes of the Blood.

This favourable Disposition of the Imperial Family, and most of the other Princes towards the Christian Religion, and those who publish it in the Capital City of *Peking*, has communicated it self to most of the Persons of the first Rank; and the Example of their Sovereign has made so deep an Impression upon the rest, even to the *Mandarins* and other Officers of the Court, that there are few who have not very favourable Sentiments of us.

But what is the most surprizing, and which has been look'd upon almost like a Prodigy to all the World, is, that the two Chief Ministers of State, have given us such publick and extraordinary Demonstrations of the Affection and Esteem they bare towards the Gospel. I mean the Lord *Go-san*, and the Lord *Ming*. The first of these two is the same Illustrious Person, who, for a considerable time has been the Chief Supporter of the Christian Religion and the Missionaries in *China*, and who signalized his Zeal of late in making use of all his Interest and Rheto-

rick to perswade, first the Emperour, and afterwards the Sovereign Court of Rites (the same Tribunal which for this Age last past, has appear'd so dreadful to the Preachers of the Gospel) to approve and conform themselves to the Emperour's Resolution of granting to us in most Solemn and Authentick manner, the free exercise of the Christian Religion.

What relates to the Second, to wit, the Lord *Ming*, tho' it must be confess'd, that hitherto, he has not had the same Opportunity to give us such publick and Signal Proofs of his Zeal and Protection, as the other illustrious Lord: Nevertheless, we are entirely satisfied as to his favourable Disposition towards our Cause; knowing him to be ready upon all Occasions to do what Service he can, to promote the Advancement of our Religion, and to second the Zeal of our Missionaries; for which reason, we ought to consider him as a Main Pillar of the Christian Religion in *China*; and whose Affection does not in the least fall short of that of the Lord *Go-san*. If it were permitted me, to publish certain Particularities relating to this Subject, which I am very well acquainted with, to my own Knowledge, I could relate such things as would give sufficient Cause for the whole Church to rejoyce at.

To put the last Hand, as I may say, the finishing Stroke to the Portraicture of this Great Prince, I will make bold to say, That in so many Respects he resembles

Your

Your Majesty, that like You, he would be one of the most Accomplished Monarchs that ever wore a Crown; if he could likewise attain to that Happiness to resemble You in one point more, which makes Your Illustrious Reign appear with greater Lustre in the Christian World, I mean in that point which relates to our Religion.

To attain to this happiness, the present Emperour of *China* must embrace the Christian Faith, and profess it with the same Sincerity as You. It is next to an impossibility for us to dive into his Thoughts, as to this point, or to guess at what he keeps conceal'd in his Breast. But if it may be allowed us, to judge by these things we have been eye-witness of, by the knowledge he has of the Fundamental parts of our Religion, and the Esteem he shews, or at least seems to shew for it; by the publick protection he affords to the Missionaries, and the favourable Sentiments he has concerning them and our Religion, inspired into his Subjects, the Chiefest Men of his Court, into the Princes, his Sons, nay even into him, who is declared his Successour in the Empire; We may, I think, without presumption conceive some hopes, that this Great Prince is not far from the Kingdom of Heaven.

What else can be concluded from these many Favours, he heaps without intermission upon the Ministers of the Gospel? Some of the most Remarkable, I have had occasion to mention before. Since

which, he has extended his Bounty further than ever before to our Missionaries. For he thought it not sufficient to allow them Lodgings within the precinct of his Royal Pallace at *Peking*, but not long after my departure, generously assigned them a very spacious piece of Ground in the same place, for the Building of a most Magnificent Church, to be dedicated to the True God; and they are not without hopes that he will be the Founder of it himself.

If this Prince had the Happiness to be actually become a Member of our holy Church, and had taken a firm Resolution to communicate the same to all his Subjects; it is scarce to be imagined, he could give us more evident proofs of his Satisfaction, than he has done of late, on the account of the happy progress of the Gospel in his Dominions, after the publication of his Edicts in favour of the Christian Religion; Let us see what the *Hollanders* themselves say upon this point, the following Relation being an Abstract of some Letters sent from *Macao* and *Peking*, towards the end of the Year 1695, which is inserted in their Historical Transactions, printed at the *Hague*: *The Emperour of* China, *since the Publication of his Edict, whereby Freedom is granted to all his Subjects, to embrace the Christian Faith, takes so much Satisfaction to understand the good Success the Missionaries meet with in all Parts of the Empire, in Converting Great Numbers of the* Chine-

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ſes, *that he has given Permiſſion to two* Italian *Jeſuits, who were at his Court, to go, and Preach the Goſpel in the moſt remote Provinces under his Juriſdiction; the People having earneſtly deſired, that ſome Fathers might be ſent thither, to ſhew them the way to Heaven. And the favourable Diſpoſition of this Great Monarch towards the Chriſtian Religion, gives us all imaginable Hopes, to ſee the whole Empire of* China *receive the Chriſtian Faith within the next Hundred Years.*

Beſides which, they give us an Account of the Converſion of ſix or ſeven Perſons of Great Quality and Authority among the *Chineſes*; which, as they ſay, makes ſo great a Noiſe in the Court, that their daily Entertainment is there, concerning the Chriſtian Religion. They add, That among the common People, the Number who are ready to receive Baptiſm, is ſo Great in ſome Parts of the Empire, that the Miſſionaries who are there, are not ſufficient to Adminiſter it to all that are deſirous of it. That the Emperour is often heard to ſpeak very favourably of our Religiou; That he takes particular Delight in the Converſion of his Subjects, and ſpeaks much in Commendation of the Zeal the Miſſionaries ſhew in their Function. And that he has made more preſſing Inſtances to four Jeſuits, that are at his Court, to ſend without delay for more of their Fraternity, to aid and aſſiſt them in their Miniſterial Function.

I am sure this was one of the Principal Instructions I received from this Prince, at that time when I was ready to repass the Seas, as I have had the Honour to give an Account of it to Your Majesty. He desired then, that above all other things, such of the *French* Jesuits as were then in the *East-Indies*, might be forthwith sent into *China*; but especially Father *Tachard*, and Father *le Comte*. For, having understood that both of them were design'd by Your Majesty, to go as Missionaries into *China*, as well as we, he was extreamly desirous to have them at his Court. And it was a considerable time before, to wit; when he invited Father *Fontenay* and Father *Visdelou* thither, That he had given his express Commands, to induce Father *le Comte* (for whom he had a most particular Respect) to come to *Peking* with his Companions.

But as Providence would have it, when I came to the *Indies*, I could not meet with any one Jesuit that was in a Condition to undertake so long a Voyage. I made therefore all possible dispatch to return into *France*; and, pursuant to the Instructions received from this Great Prince, to address my self to Your Majesty, to sollicite for as many Missionaries to be sent into *China*, as could be had; but especially of the same Character with those that are already at his Court, with whom he is satisfied to the highest degree.

For

For it is to be taken notice of, That the *French* Jesuits, such as are well Vers'd in all Sorts of useful Arts and Sciences, are the Persons of whom this Prince makes the greatest Account; he persisting in his Resolution, to make use of them, with those employed there already, to erect a kind of Academy within his Pallace, subordinate to Your Royal Academy; of which he has conceiv'd so high an Idea, since that Time we have shewn to him, and Translated some of our Treatises in o the *Tartarian* Language; That his Resolution is, that from thence, as the most excellent and pure Spring-head, may be taken most of these Memoirs, which are to be the Subject Matter of those Works he intends to have Translated into the same Language, especially those who treat of our Arts and Sciences, which he intends to encourage with all his Might throughout all his Dominions.

Great Advantage must needs acrue from this Project to the Christian Religion, when those who are to be employed upon this Subject, may be of great use in propagateing the Faith, by giving Assistance to the rest in their Ministerial Function; it being rationally to be supposed, that by divideing the several Subjects in hand betwixt them, according to their different Talents, they may bestow great part of their time in promoting the Doctrine of the Gospel, which ought always to be their Principal

Aim. Besides which, they will have the opportunity of obliging the World every year with many Curious and exact Observations and Reflections, concerning divers Matters; as likewise with the Translations of the best *Chinese* and *Tartarian* Treatises, which may not a little conduce towards the perfecting of some of our Arts and Sciences. In return of which, our Learned Men will not be backward in furnishing them with what new Discoveries are made here, for the Benefit of the *Chineses*, which, as we hope, may be made use of with good Success; to meet with the easier an Access among the Learned Men, the Great Men of the Court, the Princes and Emperour himself; and will furnish us with frequent opportunies to enlarge our selves upon the Fundamentals of our Religion, which by degrees, thro' the Grace of God, may dispose them to the embracing of the Faith.

For it has been sufficiently prov'd by the Experience of this last Age, That, since God has pleased to make the Missionaries Instrumental in introducing and planting the Christian Relgion in *China*, of all other natural Means nothing has contributed so much to the accomplishment of this Great Work, than their knowledge of all useful Sciences, from whence we may rationally infer, that even to this day, he would have us have recourse to the same

Methods,

Methods, to root out Paganism in this Empire.

It has been a general Observation, That the *Chineses*, whose Genius is much elevated above all other Pagan Nations, and who consequently are sooner brought to understand and follow the Dictates of right Reason, are commonly sooner prevail'd upon than the rest, to be instructed in the fundamental Principles of the Christian Religion, and to yield to the Truth of the Gospel; provided matters be made perspicuous to them, and in a Method agreeable to their Genius by such persons, as have before deserved their Esteem, and acquired a great Authority among them, by their Ability and an exemplary Life; God Almighty, who upon these Occasions, is always very Bountiful in shewing his Mercy, and regulating the inward Motions of hearts, having extended his Mercy in a peculiar manner to the *Chineses*, so, that by the affluence of his Spirit, many of the most Learned among them have acknowledged their Error in their mistaken Wisdom, and submitted with all Humility to the Doctrine of the Gospel.

All this duly considered, who can reasonably doubt, but, that, when by God's singular Inspiration You resolved some Years ago, to send some *French* Jesuits into *China*, to be employed in the Conversion of the Infidels; it was by the same

Motive that You gave them Your Inſtructions concerning the Improvement of Arts and Sciences? And that Providence having been pleaſed to ſecond Your Great and Holy Intentions, has raiſed ſuch a favourable Diſpoſition in the Hearts of the *Chineſes*, and of the Emperour of *China* himſelf towards theſe Miſſionaries, that this Prince has thought it convenient to Sollicite Your Majeſty, for a far greater Number of them.

What is it we may not hope for from the happy Effects of Your Heroick Zeal, to which You put no Bounds, for the good of God's Cauſe? If we may preſume to preſage of the future by what is paſs'd, eſpecially in reſpect of what Your Majeſty has been pleaſed to do of late Years in favour of the Miſſions into the Eaſtern Countries, into *Ethopia* and the *Indies*; only upon a bare Proſpect of introducing our Religion among theſe Pagans; we may promiſe our ſelves all the hopes for Succeſs from thoſe ſent into *China*, which alone are more valuable than all the reſt together, becauſe they are likely to bring a greater Number of Infidels to the Church, than may be expected from all the other Parts of the World, provided there were a proportionable Number of Miniſters to the Multitude of thoſe who ſhew a greater willingneſs to be inſtructed, ſent into thoſe parts.

The

The present Emperour of *China*'s Bounty in granting free Liberty to all his Subjects to embrace the Catholick Faith, is alone a sufficient Motive to induce us to live in hopes, that we may see that vast Empire of *China*, entirely reduced under the Obedience of Christ. But if this Great Prince should lead the way, and encourage his Subjects by his own Example, we have all the reason in the World to hope, that we may see this Great work accomplish'd under the Auspicious Reign of Your Majesty.

It must be confess'd, that without almost a miraculous Providence of God, it is not easie to hope for the Conversion of so Great and Potent a Prince, who is a Pagan. But let us consider on the other hand, the extraordinary Esteem he has always shewn for, and the powerful Protection he affords to the Christian Religion; Let us, I say, consider that this Prince is free from all these Vices, which being contrary to the Rules of our Religion, proves frequently the Main stumbling-block to *Pagan* Princes to embrace the Faith of Christ; and that he has made all these Moral Vertues, which are so rarely to be met with in a *Pagan* Prince his constant practice; all these things considered together, we may not without great reason presume to hope, that the same God who has raised such favourable Inclinations towards our Religion in the Heart of this Prince,

Prince, may be prevail'd upon to extend his Boundless Mercy towards him, especially if the Faithful in their fervent Prayers to him, do implore his Mercy in behalf of this *Prince* and his Subjects.

I say, in behalf of this Prince and all his Subjects; For, as this Emperour is invested with an absolute Power over all his Subjects, as he is most Famous throughout all the Orient by reason of his extraordinary Genius, Wisdom, Learning and uncommon Probity; so, we have all the reason in the World to believe, that, if he should be prevail'd upon to embrace the Christian Religion, his Examples would be sufficient to induce all his Subjects to tread in his footsteps, who, for their number, exceeed all Nations in *Europe*. And it is not improbable, but that, considering the high Esteem those Nations bordering on *China*, have conceiv'd of their extraordinary Wisedom, and how much they are inclined to follow their Maxims and Customs, this would be prevailing enough with many to be entirely reconciled to our holy Religion.

The most fortunate Opportunity that could be wish'd for, the most advantageous for the Establishment of our Church, and the most Glorious to Your Majesty, who seems to be chosen by Heaven, the happy Instrument of advancing the Honour of the Church, to Crown all the Actions of

of *Lewis the Great* with this, the most Glorious of all Your Enterprizes. Nothing less can be imagined to be a Recompense bearing the least proportion to that Heroick Zeal and Magnanimity, of which Your Majesty has given such ample Demonstrations to all the World within these ten Years last past, during which, after You had protected the Church, both by the force of Your Arms, and Your unparallell'd Conduct, against the Joynt-power of *Europe*, You were, notwithstanding all the Advantages on Your side, nevertheless disposed to offer Peace to Your Enemies upon very advantageous Terms on their side, out of a Generous Motive for the Publick Good, and the universal Benefit of the Church.

Among those Vows and Prayers, which we send without intermission up to Heaven, for the Conversion of the present Emperour of *China* and all his Subjects, we are never forgetful to offer our hearty Thanks to God, for the Conclusion of the last Peace, which in all probability will prove more advantageous to *China* than *Europe* it self. For by the re-establishing a free Commerce, our Ships will not want Opportunity to carry every Year some new Missionaries to the utmost Parts of the *East*; so that we may reasonably expect to be Rejoyced with the most agreeable News of the Conversion of many Thousand *Chineses*, by the Assistance of these Fa-

Fathers, who are to be ſent thither under Your Majeſty's Protection, to labour for the Encreaſe of the Empire of JESUS CHRIST.

I live in hopes to hear ſuddenly, that ſome more of our Fraternity are to be ſent by Your Majeſty, with the firſt Ships deſign'd for *China*, where, I am ſure, they will be at leaſt as well received, as any other Nation. And I hope from Your Majeſty's Goodneſs, that I may be thought Worthy to be one of their Company, to return with all poſſible ſpeed into that Part of the World, where the Sun has its Riſe. It ſhall be my Chief aim, there to ſecond Your extraordinary Zeal in propagating the Chriſtian Religion among the Infidels, in the moſt remote Parts of the World; And, as a particular Acknowledgement of theſe Favours You have been pleaſed to heap upon me, I ſhall not neglect the leaſt Opportunity of publiſhing, wherever I come, Your Great Actions; but eſpecially to give an exact Account of what I have ſeen, during my ſtay here, to the preſent Emperour of *China*, who, of all other Princes, takes the greateſt Satisfaction in hearing of Your Glorious Enterprizes, and is the moſt worthy of Your Eſteem and Friendſhip.

To conclude, I will join my hearty Prayers, with all the Faithful *Chineſes*, who look upon Your Majeſty as their

Chief

Chief Supporter, for the Preservation of Your Royal Person and Family, as an unfeigned Testimony of the most profound Respect and Devotion, wherewith I presume to subscribe my self,

Your Majesty's

Most humble, most obedient, and

Most faithful Servant,

J. BOUVET, *of the*

Society of JESUS.

FINIS.



